

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable of congratulations to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the occasion of the president's birthday. The King renewed Jordan's firm support for Iraq in its defence of Arab territories and dignity. The King also wished the Iraqi president continuing good health and happiness and the Iraqi people further progress and victory.

King sends good wishes to Hirohito

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday sent a cable of congratulations to Emperor Hirohito of Japan on the occasion of the emperor's birthday. The King wished Emperor Hirohito continuing good health and happiness and the Japanese people further progress and prosperity. The King also voiced Jordan's desire to further bolster relations and cooperation with Japan. The King expressed appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan during his recent visit to Japan.

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhaan, accompanied by Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani, Wednesday inspected agricultural projects in Wadi Araba and the southern Jordan Valley. The minister discussed with officials in charge of the project's programmes related to agricultural research and studies about groundwater resources in the valley.

Miami mayor caught in Gaza protests

MIAMI BEACH (AP)—Miami Beach Mayor Alex Daoud was stoned by Palestinian protesters while touring the Gaza Strip with an Israeli army patrol, this city's spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Daoud was not hurt in the incident Monday and was due to arrive in Miami Wednesday from this week-long trip to Israel, and to occupied territories, said Amanda Moss. "The indication is he was hit, but not seriously," she said. The mayor had requested the Gaza tour, she added. Miami Beach publicist Gerald Schwartz said Daoud was wearing clothes similar to the Israeli army uniform, which she said was normal practice for such tours. The mayor was with a group of three armoured cars, Schwartz said.

Daoud, who is Lebanese by descent and a Roman Catholic, was first elected mayor of this heavily Jewish community in 1985, and was reelected last year.

BAHRAIN (AP) — Iran claimed Wednesday that 15 U.S. marines were wounded in the April 18 skirmishes between U.S. and Iranian forces as they sought to retake the Persian Gulf port of Bahrain. Iranian forces, West Germany for the moment, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the wounded men had been "previously confined" at a hospital in Bahrain, adding that "the U.S. has not yet disclosed its casualty figures" in the April 18 fighting. The Pentagon said earlier that there were no American casualties in the day-long skirmishes that began with two attacks by U.S. warships on Iranian oil platforms. (Related stories on page 5).

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — The chief government relief official has denied Ethiopia refused permission for Britain's minister for overseas development to visit the country. Berhanu Jembere, head of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, also accused Christopher Patten of misrepresenting the situation in northern Ethiopia, where civil war is jeopardizing efforts to feed 3.2 million drought victims.

Reports said the Palestinian girl, Areej Ismail Habib, was shot in the head Tuesday night in Kufr Al Dik. Arabs said villagers hurled stones at Israeli troops who had entered the village near Nablus.

Habib, the first Palestinian killed since Saturday, died in hospital several hours after being shot, sources quoted by Reuter said.

In Arab Jerusalem, most stores remained closed after merchants voted Tuesday night to extend a strike through Thursday to protest the arrest of 14 shopkeepers who violated police orders.

The arrested merchants had opened only in the afternoon —

as leaders of the Palestinian uprising ordered — instead of following police instructions to remain open all day.

An Israeli court released seven of the merchants Wednesday on \$625 bail each and set a trial date for Thursday, a police spokesman said.

The seven other merchants also agreed to pay bail and were expected to be released later, the spokesman said.

The police orders to shopkeepers are aimed at breaking the hold of the uprising, but Musallah, an Arab Jerusalem merchant, said the shopkeepers decided Tuesday night to continue

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A Palestinian suicide commando squad crossed into Israel early Wednesday in the second such operation in 24 hours and attacked Israeli troops, killing or wounding several before being shot dead, according to reports from Israel and a statement issued in Beirut.

A faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Lebanese Communist Party claimed joint responsibility for the second infiltration into northern Israel in two days.

The claim in a joint communication issued in Beirut by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of eight factions taking up the PLO and the Lebanese Communist Party, was headed by George Hawi.

Israel Radio said commandos from Lebanon clashed with soldiers inside Israel after the infiltration threw a hand grenade at an Israeli truck, wounding the driver. Troops killed both commandos, it said.

The Beirut communicate said "Martyr Ghassan Kanafani's Squad" of the PFLP and the "Communist Party's 'Martyr Lola Abboud's Squad'" infiltrated from South Lebanon into northern Israel and attacked Israeli troops with grenades and machine gun fire.

The communicate, which did not identify the attackers or reveal the number of commandos involved in the infiltration, said several Israeli troops were killed or wounded.

The commandos entered Israel in the same area as Tuesday's clash 200 metres inside the border, in which two Israeli soldiers and three Palestinian fighters were killed, according to the Israeli army.

An Israeli military truck driver encountered the commandos after three kilometres from the border at a "Tank Junction," where a ruin of a Soviet tank used by the Syrians in the 1967 Middle East war stands as a memorial, military sources told the AP.

The commandos attacked the truck and the driver was wounded in the attack, according to the Israeli version of the incident.

The commandos then evaded troops for three hours until they were discovered and killed in a nearby wadi, according to reports from Israel.

Iraq says it will fight inside Iran with

CAIRO (Agencies) — Iraq said

BRUSSELS (AP)— Denmark secured its North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies Wednesday it seeks a mandate in next month's elections for continued and full membership in the alliance, officials said.

At a NATO defence ministers' meeting, Denmark was warned that adopting a legislative motion demanding NATO warships be allowed not to carry nuclear arms into Danish ports would undermine NATO defence plans for the alliance's northern flank.

The April 14 motion passed despite the opposition of Denmark's minority centre-right government. It has called for early elections May 10.

Danish Defence Minister Bernd Jøhann Collect stressed his government's opposition to the motion and "made it clear Denmark seeks a political mandate for continued, full NATO membership," said a senior official.

He said U.S. Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci and British Defence Secretary George Younger said that their warships "must retain access to Danish ports without being asked" if they carry nuclear arms.

Britain and the United States never say if their warships carry nuclear arms.

tested during recent attacks.

"Our strategy now is to destroy the entire Iranian oil installations so that Iran will not find money to purchase arms," Ramadan said.

"In two months Iraq will be able to hit Iran with the new missiles including remote cities and villages close to the Soviet borders," Ramadan said.

He said the plants producing the new missiles were protected against any attacks.

Chirac steps

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Jacques Chirac stepped up his campaign Wednesday to try to narrow the gap with his rival, front runner Francois Mitterrand, in the bitter race for the French presidency.

The 55-year-old Chirac has scheduled 18 political rallies in the remaining 10 days before the election's final round May 8. He announced that his campaign's last appearance would be with former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, a centrist.

In order to beat the incumbent Mitterrand, political analysts say it is imperative that Chirac capture the widely-scattered right-of-centre vote and Giscard's backing

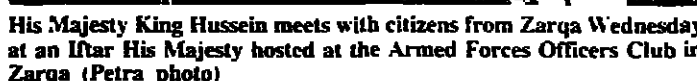
AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday the Arab Nation was currently exposed to external and internal threats aimed at its resources and that this nation stands firm and determined to defend the Arab Order and Arab rights.

The King outlined Jordan's stand on efforts towards reaching a solution to the Palestine problem, defending the Arab Order and achieving Arab unity.

Speaking at an Iftar banquet he hosted for dignitaries from Zarqa Governorate, the King said that Iraq was blocking all attempts against the Arab Order and nation and shattering the dream of establishing a Persian empire based on a racist hatred of Arabs.

The King said: "There is no other explanation for the continuation of this [Iranian] aggression against Arabs and Arab lands for eight years with this ferocity and this determination."

(Continued on page 5)



AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath and an official delegation accompanying them returned to Amman Wednesday at the end of a tour that took them to Singapore, Japan and India.

During the tour Prince Hassan met with leaders of these countries to discuss bilateral relations, the Middle East problem, and the Gulf conflict as well as other issues of common concern.

During Prince Hassan's visit to Japan a Jordanian investment mission designed to promote Japanese-Jordanian cooperation in different fields was held in Tokyo.

Upon their return to Amman, Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath were greeted by Prime Minister Rif'at al-Rajhi.

KUWAIT (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has received a cable from the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, expressing his thanks and appreciation for the sincere and brotherly feelings expressed by the Crown Prince over the hijacking of a Kuwaiti airliner three weeks ago. Sheikh Jaber also thanked Prince Hassan for his condolences over the victims killed during the hijacking.

The delegation that accompanied the Crown Prince included Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaa, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Fayez Tarawneh, Royal Scientific Society President Jawad Al Anani, Central Bank Governor Hussein Al Qassem and other officials representing various economic sectors.

Blast rocks Saudia office Riyadh severs diplom

KUWAIT (Agencies) — A time-bomb ripped through the downtown office of Saudi Arabia's national airline Wednesday, injuring a guard and seriously damaging the premises, the interior ministry said.

The blast at the airline, Saudia, occurred less than a day after Saudi Arabia broke diplomatic relations with Iran. Kuwait often has blamed bomb attacks on Iranian-backed saboteurs.

An official at the ministry said the explosion caused extensive damage to the Saudia offices and a security man on duty was slightly injured.

Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuter said the bomb tore out windows of the Saudia office and a neighbouring travel agency and left the blackened sidewalk covered with glass and twisted metal.

Police said the bomb appeared to have been placed on the side-

PARIS (R) — France is rushing five planeloads of troops and equipment to its South Pacific territory of New Caledonia after armed separatists took more French hostages Wednesday, French radio reported.

Sources at a military airport near Noumea in western France said five Transall military transport aircraft took off, bound initially for Paris, with an unknown number of troops aboard.

They said the troops came from a base at Vannes, where two units of France's elite rapid action force and a marine regiment are based.

Seven Frenchmen, including a magistrate and the head of France's crack anti-terrorist squad, were kidnapped by Kanak (ethnic Melanesian) separatists Wednesday during negotiations to free 16 gendarmes held since Friday.

French officials in Noumea said the magistrate, Jean Bianconi, was about to start the talks when he and his six guards were seized by a group of about 15 Kanaks.

Earlier story on page 8.

Fort-de-France, the socialist leader Tuesday heard appeals from local leaders such as poet and Fort-de-France Deputy Mayor Aime Cesaïre denouncing "this new wave of racism breaking out today in France."

The extreme-right National Front's Jean-Marie Le Pen took more than 14 per cent of the vote in the first round of the election. Le Pen was eliminated and Mitterrand, Chirac, topped the poll to face each other in the May 8 runoff.

But the support which Le Pen won for his anti-North African immigrant, "France for the French" campaign shook his opponents.

In Martinique, a Caribbean territory which is one of the scattered remnants of France's former empire, Mitterrand seemed to place himself above the fray by affirming his will "to unite the French around the values of democracy."

But with Harlem Desir, the young founder of France's anti-racist group SOS-Racism, at his side, Mitterrand told cheering supporters that France could not accept "lies" that some people were full-fledged citizens and others were not.

"For what reason? The colour of the skin, the racial origin, the social situation, the level of wealth?" he asked.

CAIRO (R) — U.S. mediator met Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid Wednesday to try to settle the dispute between Egypt and Israel over ownership of a beachfront strip of land in Sinai. "It is better for the countries to work out their own solution than have one imposed on them," said U.S. State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer after the talks. Washington is pressing for a bilateral settlement on Tabqa, a 700-metre wedge of beachfront in the Sinai peninsula, to avert a divisive referendum on Egyptian sovereignty over the area. The Egyptian government has refused to discuss the issue since it was returned by Israel when it came to terms with the Israelis in 1982. "Egyptian sovereignty over Tabqa is beyond question, and anything that does not conform with it is totally unacceptable," Abdul Meguid told reporters before meeting Sofaer, who arrived in Egypt after talks in Israel. If the two sides cannot reach a bilateral settlement on Tabqa, they have agreed to seek the decision of an international panel of judges in July or August. Sofaer is expected to leave Cairo on Thursday and return to Washington and then fly back to Israel for further mediation.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday contacted Saudi Arabia's King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz by telephone and exchanged with him views on current Arab issues which require unity and solidarity among Arab brethren, and stressed Jordan's firm support of Saudi Arabia vis-a-vis Iranian provocations.

The King also contacted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to inquire about Iraq's steadfast stand on the front against Iranian aggression.

The King also received a telephone call from Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (P.L.O.), who expressed to the King his appreciation of His Majesty's condolences and his stand over the assassination of martyr Khalil Al Wazir.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Wednesday Mrs. Infissar Al Wazir, wife of assassinated Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) deputy military commander Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

Attending the meeting was a delegation from the Palestine National Council (PNC), including PNC Speaker Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Saei, Mohammad Mifteh, Abdul Razzak Al

Yahya and Abdul Rahim Ahmad.

Mrs. Wazir and the delegation thanked the King for his sympathy over the death of Abu Jihad and his visit, along with Her Majesty Queen Noor, Tuesday to Mrs. Wazir to offer condolences.

Mrs. Wazir and her children arrived in Amman from Damascus Tuesday along with the PNC members and PLO officials.

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Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuter said the bomb tore out windows of the Saudia office and a neighbouring travel agency and left the blackened sidewalk covered with glass and twisted metal.

Police said the bomb appeared to have been placed on the sidewalk. It went off at 4:20 p.m. (1320 GMT), but offices and streets were empty due to the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Saudia Arabia said it had cut diplomatic ties with Iran because of Tehran's hostile stands towards Riyadh and attacks on Saudi shipping in the Gulf.

Iran contended that the move was a way to prevent Iranians from going to Mecca in July for the annual pilgrimage, scene of relations with Tehran because of its hostile attitude, citing attacks on Saudi-linked shipping in the Gulf and smuggling of explosives into Saudi Arabia.

Tehran Radio contended that the Saudi announcement was only a cover for the real intention of barring Iranian pilgrims for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in mid-July.

Gulf-based diplomats said Riyadh's decision to cut ties was

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Earlier story on page 8.

KABUL (Agencies) — A car bomb exploded along the Kabul River in the Afghan capital's Pamira district at lunchtime Wednesday, killing at least four people and shattering windows in a two-square-block area.

Ambulance crews took away at least two men who were seriously wounded in the explosion at 12:40 p.m. (0810 GMT). One Western reporter said he saw three bodies carried from the scene, and that witnesses had told him at least eight people had been injured.

Police refused to tell visiting foreign journalists who arrived on the scene about 10 minutes after the blast if there had been deaths, or injuries beyond the two people that ambulance crews were seen taking away.

But the official Soviet news agency, TASS later reported in Moscow that preliminary information indicated four people were killed and seven injured.

The truck in which the bomb was hidden was completely des-

troyed by the blast.

"Investigating authorities said the truck, which arrived in Kabul from Pakistan, must have carried an estimated 150 or so kilograms of explosives," TASS said.

The bombing was likely the work of anti-communist rebels fighting the Moscow-aligned government of President Najibullah, which Tuesday observed the 10th anniversary of its communist revolution.

The Soviets have been helping the Afghan government for more than eight years in its fight against the insurgents, but are scheduled to begin pulling out next month.

Many Western observers say they doubt that Najibullah's government, if deprived of Soviet aid on the battlefield and army shipments, would be able to withstand the rebels.

Mujahadeen reject proposal

Mujahadeen leader Gulbaddin Hekmatyar Tuesday rejected the

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued on page 5)

In Wadi Rum:

Watching videos and experimenting with potatoes

This is the second of a three-part series on farming in Jordan's southern desert compiled by Jordan Times reporter Salameh Ne'matt after a recent visit to projects in the Wadi Rum area.

GOOD marketing is perhaps one of the most important elements for the success of a farming project. John Camp, the production manager of the Rum Agricultural Company discussed with the Jordan Times his work at the company's project near Wadi Rum. The company is considering growing onions, beans, carrots and soya beans, according to Camp. But the question of marketing these products is still in the planning phase.

Camp monitors the market on a regular basis to keep informed about marketing shortages and trends so that the company could adjust its production and marketing effort accordingly.

"We monitor the market to see where there is shortage in supply and try to take advantage of the unique situation in Wadi Rum where the farming seasons are longer because of the hot weather. We try to supply the market by producing different varieties during a certain time of the year." On the long run, this effort

is directed towards reducing the Kingdom's imports and relying more on national production.

Camp says that the first two years of work on the project consisted of laying the groundwork with a large amount of spending. He said he expected returns from the project in the coming years.

"We are now developing marketing programmes," Camp said. "One of the major things we learned is how to establish our own cropping pattern."

Citing an example, he said that a potato marketing problem emerged recently because "all of a sudden, everybody is producing potatoes and exports have been very difficult."

"We are now cutting our potato production by 35 per cent this year, hoping to improve production at a more competitive rates. We are at the right time for change."

The company is looking into the production of other crops but

Camp says that it is taking some time before adjustment to the market's needs and marketing fluctuations.

"We don't adjust rapidly. Our conditions will be somewhat adjusted from season to season, but not as rapidly as people think it can be done. We want to be more efficient than everybody else," Camp said. "This is our emphasis."

His company is now working on a fruit orchard and providing storage and grading facilities for this new line of produce. "A great emphasis is put on the project," he explained. "There will be a diverse variety of apples, peaches, nectarines, grapes and possibly apricots."

The next step according to the company is working on what is known as downstream industries such as sheep farms, the manufacturing and processing of farm products as well as growing crops for sheep farming.

Social life

Iyad Abu Ali, the deputy farm manager, who is also an agricultural engineer, said that other challenges for the project include the problem of creating a social

life for employees working on the project near Wadi Rum.

"There is no television reception here. This area will soon grow bigger with nearly 100,000 dunums of land cultivated and soon, we will have to look for ways to provide basic services for the people."

Abu Ali explained that with the number of developers increasing in the Wadi Rum area, the size of cultivated land could reach that of the Jordan Valley. "But believe it or not, we still do not have a telephone line."

Camp predicts that finding workers and keeping the ones already employed on Wadi Rum farming projects will soon become "the single biggest problem."

He said many workers "will leave and go to work in places closer to home after they have been trained. We have to find a way to keep them."

Abu Ali's wife is a teacher in Amman where their children go to school.

He said that the project was nevertheless developing, expanding and learning in the direction of offering better incentives to workers.

"In the future," he said, "incentives to our workers could give us the edge over others in the field."

The company's management makes available facilities for workers to practise certain sports such as table tennis and pool as a form of entertainment. But the most popular entertainment is watching video films in the evenings as television broadcasts cannot be received.

Farm manager Maher Affouneh discussed the question of why the private sector was more equipped than the government for carrying out such a project as handled by his company.

"The private sector has an edge over the government in this line of business," he said. "The work routine and the question of incentives and operational flexibility are important elements for the success of such a project." He explained that the private sector had much better mobility than the government and that private enterprises offered better incentives for workers.

He added that the element of competition was absent in the case of a government project. "There are no incentives with the government. Whether you work hard or not, you still get your salary. But in the private sector if the employee is not working, he loses his job."

"If the work requires us to work 24 hours, we will work 24 hours."

Camp said that when the need arises, "we have all learned to be technicians. We do a lot of teaching so that if somebody is absent for any reason, somebody else automatically takes over and the work continues."

Communication

The project's remote location was cited as one further hurdle that needs to be overcome as it creates a problem of communication, mainly for the purpose of getting the needs of the project such as fertilisers and other farming material.

Affouneh complained that the government only went halfway in offering incentives to the private sector and that it should go further in support of investors in this part of the Kingdom. Jordan imports wheat from Saudi Arabia and the policy of private sector

farming companies is to decrease production cost and increase production which is bought by the government at subsidised prices.

The Rum Agricultural Company which started work in 1986, was set up for this particular project by the Astra group, a public share-holding company with great experience in reclaiming arid and semi-arid lands.

One of the project's irrigation experts, Patrick Craig said that there were 30 to 35 wells in the Wadi Rum area and that Aqaba gets its water from Wadi Rum. He said that there was a possibility of supplying Amman with water from these wells. The water is pumped for irrigation after being screened by a filtration system to get rid of sand in the

water. "We spent the first 1½ years clearing the wells and we are still drilling for more," Craig said. "It was like a rat race," he said describing work on getting the water wells ready for work.

An irrigation unit consists of the water well, the pump, an underground distribution system that takes water to the centre of the pivot through the distribution line to the pivot's sprinklers (one every eight feet).

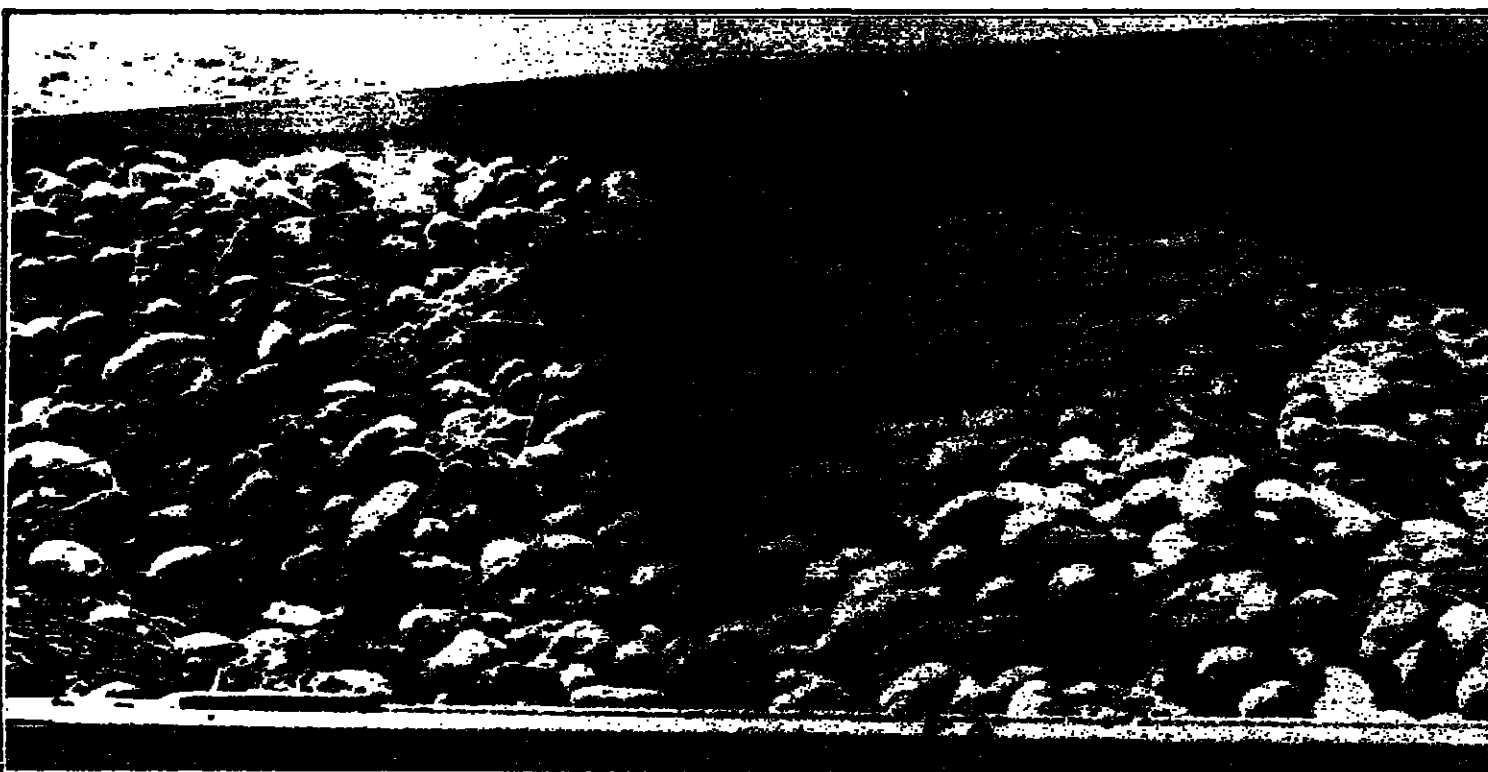
The central pivot system provides a maximum of 38 inches of water per acre every 24 hours. (A hectare is 2.5 acres). The central pivot covers a diameter of 900 metres.

On the working process itself, Affouneh said that managers, en-

gineers and technicians hold a meeting every day between 6:30 and 8:00 every morning "so that everybody knows at any given time what the other is doing."

The company believes that similar farming projects could work anywhere else in the Kingdom provided water and energy sources are available. The central pivot system costs \$30,000, nearly JD 1 to JD 1.5 per hectare investment. The pivot's lifespan is 10 years while maintenance is said to be not much of a problem.

One man supervises 10 pivots, on day and night shifts. The pivots are shut during what is known as peak hours between 4:00 and 10:00 p.m. during which electricity industrial rates are not in effect.



Potatoes face serious marketing problems with great fluctuations in prices. Export possibilities are under consideration.



Production manager John Camp monitors supply and demand in the local market. Here, he stands next to a water pump at the Wadi Rum project. Photos by Salameh B. Ne'matt



A field of garlic, a commodity usually imported from other Arab or European countries.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

14:00 Koran
14:20 Programme Review
14:25 Cartoons
15:05 Children's series
15:30 Religious series
15:50 Thousand and One Nights
16:10 Arabic play
17:10 Cooking programme
17:30 Religious series
17:50 Health and Fasting
18:00 Arabic comedy
18:20 Ramadan contest
19:00 Religious programme
19:30 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Puzzles from all over the world
22:00 Historical series
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Arabic series
23:30 Arabic film

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Rue Carnot
18:30 Le Monde magique de chantal Goya
19:00 News in French
19:15 Sports Bloopers
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Charlie Chaplin
21:10 Wash Me Luck
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Lady in the Car"

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 950 KHz, SW
Tel: 77111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsweek
08:00 Morning Show
08:05 News Summary
08:10 Morning Show Cont.
08:15 Country Music
11:00 Hitsville: The story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:05 News Music
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Hall of Fame
15:00 Concert Hour
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Hitsville: The story of Motown
17:30 Good Vibrations
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Our Mutual Friend

FOR FRIDAY

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PROGRAMME ONE

18:00 Koran
18:20 Programme Review
18:30 Children programmes
19:00 Religious programme
19:30 Friday's prayer
19:50 Religious programme
20:00 Religious seminar
20:30 Arabic stories
21:10 Arabic play
21:30 Cooking programme
21:50 Health and Fasting (Arabic)
22:00 Arabic comedy
22:30 Religious programmes
23:00 Programme review
23:30 News in Arabic
24:00 A programme on the Wadi Rum
24:20 Arabic series

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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

★ The British Council is showing an exhibition of work by British illustrators. There is also a continuous showing of the video "7 Illustrators at Work" throughout the exhibition.

★ Book and Computer exhibition at Zarqa Community College.

★ Plastic Art Festival by 30 Jordanian and Arab artists at Tower Building.

★ Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle.

★ Annual school exhibition at Noor Al Hussein Secondary Girls School, Karak.

★ National Book and Audiovisual exhibition at Vocational Training School, Ain Al Fasha.

★ Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 816534, 817534.

★ "Charlie Chaplin Collection" at 5:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

★ "Chissia perche capitano tutte a me" (Italian) at 9:00 p.m. Thursday at the Haya Arts Centre.

★ Cultural Centres

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267
American Centre .. 644371
British Council .. 631478
French Cultural Centre .. 637009
Goethe Institute .. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 624049
Haya Arts Centre .. 661995
Hussein Youth City .. 667181/6
Y.W.C.A. .. 641793
Y.W.M.A. .. 664251
Jordan Municipal Library .. 636111
Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

★ The British Council is showing an exhibition of work by British illustrators. There is also a continuous showing of the video "7 Illustrators at Work" throughout the exhibition.

★ Book and Computer exhibition at Zarqa Community College.

★ Plastic Art Festival by 30 Jordanian and Arab artists at Tower Building.

★ Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle.

★ Annual school exhibition at Noor Al Hussein Secondary Girls School, Karak.

★ National Book and Audiovisual exhibition at Vocational Training School, Ain Al Fasha.

★ Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 816534, 817534.

★ "Charlie Chaplin Collection" at 5:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.

★ "Chissia perche capitano tutte a me" (Italian) at 9:00 p.m. Thursday at

Hot and dry weather expected in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Hot and dry weather is expected to affect the Kingdom over the coming two days, due to a khamasine depression centred over Egypt and moving eastward, according to the Department of Meteorology's deputy director.

He said winds blowing from the west and south-west will be carrying dust to all parts of the Kingdom.

He said that the khamasine weather conditions normally help the movement of locusts towards the north, and enable these swarms of locusts to cross greater distances as they are being pushed along by the high and hot winds.

"Therefore, it is quite possible that swarms of locusts will be heading towards Jordan from Egypt and northern Saudi Arabia," he noted.

The Meteorological Department's statement followed another by the Ministry of Agriculture's secretary general Tuesday in which he said Jordan is now free of locusts, but all precautionary measures have been taken in the face of any eventuality.

Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi said that the Ministry of

Agriculture has allocated sufficient funds and purchased required equipment and other material to combat the pests in the event they infiltrate into Jordanian territory.

According to Lawzi, swarms of locusts have already invaded several North African countries, including Egypt, and that they have crossed the Red Sea and settled in parts of north Saudi Arabia bordering Jordan.

He said that aerial surveillance of the southern regions were continuing and ground teams have been placed on full alert to combat the pest.

Jordan's last serious locust invasion was in 1959 when the insects devastated crops in the Jordan Valley.

The Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday reported meetings being held by local officials and governors in the southern regions of the country, to study the most effective measures to be taken in combating the locusts.

According to the report, operation rooms have been set up, and school children have been recruited to offer help during an emergency.

Hamzeh opens Hai Nazzal health centre

AMMAN (Petra) — A health centre was opened at Hai Nazzal district to offer medical care to nearly 70,000 people.

The centre operated by the Health Ministry will offer services to Hai Nazzal, Jabal Akhdar, Amawi, Bader, Thira'a Gharbi and Thira'a Sharqi districts, according to health officials.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh opened the centre which contains units for general practice,

emergency and first-aid services, a pharmacy, a mother and child care centre and other services.

The minister met with the local residents at the opening ceremony and underlined the importance of primary health care being sponsored by the Health Ministry in Jordan.

He said that the Health Ministry strives to increase the health centres and to promote their services to the public.

Poultry slaughterhouse markets 12,000 birds daily

AMMAN (Petra) — The poultry slaughterhouse, owned by the Greater Amman Municipality has been producing up to 12,000 birds ready for the market on a daily basis since the start of the month of Ramadan on April 17.

Before Ramadan the slaughterhouse was producing up to 25,000 birds for the market, double the present rate, the director said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

He said the slaughterhouse's capacity is 40,000 birds a day, but the decline came about as a result of the drop in the quantity of poultry arriving at the slaughterhouse. "This is because of low

price of poultry over the past few months that was caused by the great supply in the local market."

The low prices prompted farmers to refrain from working in full capacity for fear of sustaining losses in the sale of their poultry later on, according to the director.

He said by supplying half the quantity to the market the farmers were hoping that the prices would stabilise once the over-supply factor has been removed.

Before the month of Ramadan a kilogramme of poultry meat was bought at 400 fils from the farms but due to the shortage it rose to 580 fils.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

LAWZI RECEIVES ENVOYS: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Wednesday met separately with the Japanese and Austrian ambassadors in Amman and reviewed with them existing relations between Jordan and each of Japan and Austria.

DENTISTRY: Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid will take part in the annual conference of the U.S. Academy of Dentistry which will be held in San Francisco between May 8-15.

SUPPORT FOR UPRISING: The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) in Balqa governorate has decided to make a donation of one-day salary from all the staff of the charitable societies in the governorate, to support the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

TOYS FROM U.K.: A presentation of children's toys was made Tuesday to the Jordan Save the Children Fund by the British embassy. The toys, which were specially imported from the U.K., will be distributed among various community centres in the Ma'an area.

UREIKAT MEETS REEVE: British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve met with Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat Wednesday to discuss scopes of cooperation between their two countries in social development and voluntary work.

COURSE FOR NURSES: A training course on health care, organised by the Department of Health in Mafrq, ended Wednesday. The course was attended by 30 nurses, health officials and assistants. The three-day course entailed lectures on vaccines and means of combating diarrhoea among children.

AGRICULTURE: The Department of Agriculture in Karak has organised a seminar to provide directions and guidance to farmers in the Sai Al Karak district, about means of combating pests that damage fruit trees. Several agricultural engineers and officials from the agricultural extension service delivered lectures on the subject.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT: The Cabinet has endorsed a court sentence on Mohammad Ahmad Abu Dayyeh from Al Jib town near Ramallah for selling property to Israelis. The court ruled that Abu Dayyeh would be executed by hanging, the contract for sale should be considered null and void, and that the property should be regarded as owned by the state.

IPU MEETING: Jordan's delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Guatemala returned to Amman on Tuesday, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said that the delegation which was led by former minister Hazem Nusseibeh included members of both Houses of Parliament and the Parliament's Secretary General Hani Khair.

2 DIE IN ACCIDENTS: Two people were killed and 20 others wounded in different incidents and road accidents that took place in the country in the past 25 hours according to Al Ra'i Arabic paper. It said the road accidents were responsible for one death and most of the injuries and the destruction of six vehicles. In one road accident three people were injured when their car collided with a pick up truck in Swelieh region. It also said that a little girl in Bani Kinana district was treated at the government hospital in Irbid after eating contaminated food.

RIDING FOR DISABLED: Philippa Verry, a world famous rider, will be giving a riding demonstration for the Riding for the Disabled at 11 a.m. Friday, April 29, at the Arabian Horse Club, Airport Road.



QUEEN OPENS FESTIVAL: Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday opened at the Ruman Amphitheatre the First Festival of Heritage and Islamic Books. The festival includes an exhibition of Arabic calligraphy, documents and photographs, in addition to film presentations and cultural programmes for children (Petra photo)

Haj Hassan, UNDP team discuss privatisation of PTC

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) met here Wednesday with Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan to discuss steps being taken in transformation of the Public Transport Corporation (PTC) into a company owned and operated by the private sector in Jordan.

The decision to transform the PTC into a private enterprise had been taken by the government in order to stimulate the corporation's operations.

Haj Hassan, addressing the delegation said that the government was keen on enabling the corporation to make more profits by

operating with more flexibility and with more freedom, in order to provide more and better services for the public.

The minister and the delegation members reviewed a report submitted on the project which called for an improvement of the transportation network in Jordan.

Haj Hassan said this ministry recommends introducing improvements in the Amman region's transportation network as a first step accompanying the transformation of the corporation into a private owned company, before other expansions can be made in networks in other parts of the country.

The head of the delegation spoke in detail on the different aspects of the report, calling Haj Hassan's attention to the need to introduce improvements to the existing network, in accordance with a plan that would cater to the medium and long-term needs.

He said that such improvement can be made through the involvement of other transport organisations operating in the Kingdom.

The UNDP had financed a study on the transformation of the PTC into a private shareholding company at the cost of \$300,000.

Attending the meeting with the minister was the PTC director general and senior officials.

Jordan, Egypt conduct first microwave telephone link

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Wednesday conducted the first microwave telephone communication, which was recently installed, linking the two countries through the Aqaba-Sinai peninsula zone.

The telephone contact was made by Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan with his Egyptian counterpart Suleiman Mitwalli,

which came in the course of Egypt's celebrations of the liberation of Sinai from Israeli rule.

The project was implemented in response to a resolution taken by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, according to Ministry of Transport and Telecommunication official.

The official said that with the introduction of the new system 300 telephone channels have

been opened for the benefit of people of both countries in addition to the satellite communication channels.

He said that 120 channels of the new system will be assigned for direct contacts between Egypt and Jordan, 120 others for contacts between Jordan and Europe through Egypt and 60 for transit calls made in Egypt for links with Syria, Iraq and the Gulf region through Jordan.

NRA discovers new mineral water spring

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) has discovered a hot spring with mineral water at 52 degrees centigrade at Ghor Haditha near Karak, in southern Jordan, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The report said that the hot spring was discovered as NRA teams were prospecting for oil shale some 40 kilometres away from Karak.

The report said that the spring will be turned over to the Tourism Authority to be exploited as a touristic attraction.

If the report is true then Jordan will have four such springs which are being used as health spas.

These are Al Himmeh near the Syrian border, Zarqa Ma'in Spa near Madaba, Afra Springs near Tafleh together with the new spring near Karak.



Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh delivers a lecture Wednesday at the Police Academy in Amman (Petra photo)

Rawabdeh outlines new municipal system

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh said Wednesday that the city of Amman was suffering from chronic problems, represented in the random and ill-organised building operations and irregular municipal services before 1987, when a decision was taken to unify, organise and control services in the Greater Amman region.

Building was encroaching on agricultural land and local administration was not organised to control this phenomenon, due to the lack of proper plans and the absence of a proper authority that could take charge of different projects, the mayor said in a lecture he delivered at the Police Academy in Amman.

Rawabdeh said agreement was reached on unifying the efforts of the municipalities of Amman with those of towns lying on its outskirts, and on organising municipal services to this larger area in two stages.

The first stage, beginning in 1987 and lasting four years, entails cancelling the Old Amman Municipality system and the municipal councils that had been operating in the suburban districts, Rawabdeh noted.

Instead, he said the whole area was divided into 20 districts governed by a central municipal council, representing Amman proper and the other towns and municipalities that merged with the capital.

Each of the previous municipalities have five representatives in the Central Council, which also groups representatives of various government departments who have to coordinate their work with the Greater Amman Municipal Council.

According to Rawabdeh, the second stage will not be implemented before a law on the organisation of the Greater Amman region has been enacted.

He said the second stage envisages the creation of new municipalities elected by the local population, but governed by a central council of 40 to 60 members representing these municipalities in the Greater Amman area.

The Central Council will be in charge of matters related to traffic, development projects, municipal services and re-organisation work.

Rawabdeh presented a briefing on the capital's development over the years since the end of the World War II.

19,129 felonies committed in 1987

PSD chief reports 7.4% drop in crimes

AMMAN (Petra) — There were 18,129 crimes in Jordan during 1987 against 19,579 in 1986, registering a drop of 7.4 per cent in general and a decline of 18.4 per cent in the number of felonies, Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali announced Wednesday.

Records at the PSD offices indicate that in 1987 there were 5.4 per cent less juvenile delinquencies, 27.4 per cent less thefts and robberies and 8.1 per cent less acts of fraud than in 1986.

Majali said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Majali said of the 68 murders committed last year 61 have been discovered and that most of these murders were committed on moral grounds. "But there were others due to family feuds, revenge or motivated by other unidentified causes."

Majali noted that imbalance in character, unlawful sexual relations and poor backgrounds had also been behind a number of murders committed in the country.

In addition, several cases of manslaughter were also committed last year due mainly to stray bullets fired during weddings, Majali added.

Last year witnessed a total of 4,305 thefts or robberies, registering a decline of 9.9 per cent over the 1986 figures with the (PSD) discovering nearly \$6.4 per

cent. Most of the thefts and robberies were due to carelessness on the part of households and businesses in taking precautionary measures, and most of the robbers and thieves were among those unemployed people a majority of whom were found to be students, Majali noted.

According to Majali there were 338 cases of fraud in 1987, registering a drop of 33.98 per cent over the previous year with the PSD discovering 73 per cent of them.

He said that 289 persons, including 40 non-Jordanians, have been discovered to be involved in these fraud cases.

As to the moral crimes, they numbered, 1,088 last year registering an increase by 111 over those of 1986, Majali noted.

He said of these there were 110 adultery cases and 33 rapes, but the total number of people involved in cases involving moral conduct was 1,565 of whom 110 were of non-Jordanians.

Last year, he said, there were 317 cases in which shots were

fired during weddings and other occasions, registering 47 cases more than the previous year. He added that police apprehended 280 people involved in firing guns in such occasions.

Majali said that there were 2,876 juvenile delinquency cases in 1987, involving cases of thefts, drunkenness, disturbance, arms firing, harming others, and also including pre-meditated murders.

He said that non-Jordanians together committed 1,168 crimes of all kinds, but the number registers a 55 per cent decline over the 1986 figures.

On the whole the drop in the number of crimes of all kinds committed in the past year in comparison with the previous year is largely due to firm PSD measures, a reorganisation of labour market in Jordan and public awareness, Majali noted.

Last month a seminar on crime and means of protecting the society from the criminal, recommended that a higher national committee be formed to work out a long term national strategy for combatting crime.

Earlier this month the committee held a series of meetings, which resulted in the formation of subcommittees that would take charge of cases of juvenile delinquency, protection of the society from immoral behaviour, cases of public embezzlement, murder and others.

Cabinet makes new appointments

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet Wednesday appointed Talal Ghazzawi as chairman of the board of directors of the Jordanian Farmers Federation, succeeding Adel Shamaileh who had resigned his post.

The cabinet also appointed Mahmoud Al Dweikat mayor of the town of Samma in Irbid governorate and Salah Diabat as mayor of Husseinieh in Ma'an governorate.

The cabinet announced the retirement of Ahmad Alaudin from the Interior Ministry and promoted Eid Al Fayezi, the director of the Jordanian Ports

Corporation, to the first category group in the Civil Service Commission's classification order.

The cabinet also approved a Jordanian-Turkish agreement on transport and transit and delegated Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabbaa to sign

the agreement with the Turkish government.

The cabinet decided that Jordan should take part in the extraordinary session of the Arab Health Ministers Council's Executive Bureau which will be held in Geneva in the coming month.

Police complete course

AMMAN (Petra) — A ceremony was held Wednesday at the Princess Basma Institute for the graduation of the first batch of policewomen who had completed a training course in fencing.

The participants, who underwent two months training courses in the art of fencing, received their diplomas and awards from the Public Security Department's assistant director for operations and planning.

Dear Chris
Well, here I am at last in
old Vienna - I should have done it
years ago. Friendly people,
cobble streets, beautiful parks
and delicious food. A great trip on
Royal Jordanian! Vienna's
International Airport was so efficient
and the welcome was wonderful.
A good start for the holiday
"Auf wiedersehen"
as they say here.
Love Bob

C. Smith
P.O. Box 302
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Setting new standards.

Jordan Times

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Israel's newly-bought settlers

EVER heard of a country bribing people to immigrate? Well, this is precisely the means Israel seems to have adopted in its concerted drive to attract Jews to go to the "promised land," to compensate for the increasing number of disgruntled Jews leaving the country. Labeled as "absorption grants," an unspecified amount of money is being made available to every Jew who arrives in Israel to settle down; no doubt, nowhere else other than the occupied West Bank. Immigrants will be free to use the money as they please; whether to stay in luxury hotels until Israeli officials present them with the keys to new "housing units," or to do anything else as long as their plans do not include departure from the country, since the only unspoken condition is once the money is received the "immigrant" cannot leave.

Among other incentives offered to potential immigrants are subsidised rentals and help with mortgage arrangements, in addition to resident advisers from the ministry of absorption in most hotels. Perhaps it will be no longer strange for a visitor to be accosted by a stranger offering money right in the hotel lobby, in return for a signature on the dotted line of immigration papers.

One would have thought it is more logical for Jews to pay Israel for the privilege of living in the "promised land." After all, the country was created as the ultimate homeland for the Jews of the world. But it is not so. Israel has to entice Jews with bribes and all kinds of promises to immigrate.

The gradual shift to cash incentives appears to have been prompted by Israel's realisation that coercion does not work any more. Gone are the days when Jews flocked to the "land of milk and honey" (though in some cases they were terrorised into doing so after carefully arranged Zionist attacks against Jews, including bombings of synagogues and other Jewish targets). The awareness has taken root among world Jewry that the homes that they may set up in the "promised land" are on land that has been taken from its rightful owners. Furthermore, Israel's own system of quasi-racist politics — that of subtle segregation of Orientals and Occidentals, with the latter enjoying the upper hand — has ceased to be a secret.

It may appear puzzling how Israel can afford to be so generous with immigrants, when the country is facing economic hardships; but it is not a question of generosity, but of the need for more and more people to settle the occupied West Bank and to strengthen the de facto annexation of the territory. It only underlines the conviction that Israel is determined to hang onto the territory at any cost. It should be a clear message to Israel's financial backers — whether in Europe or in the U.S. — that a negotiated settlement and "territorial compromise" are not in Israel's mind, and that every payment sent to Israel is turned into another obstacle in the path to peace in the Middle East.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Questions to Shultz

THE United States abstained from voting on a U.N. Security Council resolution that condemned the assassination of PLO commander Khalil Al Wazir. Security Council members had on purpose refrained from explicitly stating that it was Israel which assassinated Wazir to ensure that it would not be vetoed by Washington. The U.S. does not condemn Israel's terrorist actions or acts of assassination or the breaking of the bones of youths or other atrocities committed against the Arab population. The U.S. does not consider these matters as terrorist actions and therefore it continues to extend military, economic and political support to the Jewish state, supplying the Israeli leaders with means to maintain their crimes and their occupation of Arab land. Washington's abstention from condemning Israel's crimes implies encouragement to the Jewish state to pursue its terrorist practices, and its criminal actions against the Arab people and the PLO. Such behaviour is a clear demonstration of U.S. policy with regard to the rights of the Palestinian people in their land and an expression of continued backing to Israel's actions in the future. According to Israeli sources, abstention from voting on the Security Council resolution was upon instructions from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz personally. If this is true we wonder about the outcome of Shultz's coming tour in our region under the pretext of seeking peace. If Washington offers Israel all means for carrying out terrorist activity, and backs its actions before the world, how are we supposed to accept the U.S. mediation for a settlement, and how can we accept the U.S. to act as an arbitrator in the conflict?

Al Dustour: Damascus reconciliation

MOST Arab countries have followed Jordan's declaration of support for the Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation and welcomed the Syrian and PLO leadership's intention to take a joint action with regard to Israel's policies. This unanimous Arab welcome of reconciliation between these two important parties in the Arab-Israeli conflict is regarded as very essential, following the assassination of PLO deputy commander Khalil Al Wazir in Tunis. There is no doubt that the Syrian-Palestinian agreement would open a new chapter in relations between the two sides or the benefit of the Arab cause, and for serving the Palestinian people. There is no doubt that the Damascus reconciliation was influenced by the positive results of the Amman summit meeting held last November which paved the way for fruitful cooperation among Arab states, and enhanced solidarity among Arab people everywhere. Also, the current uprising in the occupied Arab territories has encouraged both sides to pool their efforts and their resources and to unite their ranks vis-a-vis the common danger. The two sides are now in agreement on the manner in which they would extend support and help to the uprising and on means of escalating the struggle against the Israeli occupation. We in Jordan warmly welcome this reconciliation and consider it as complementary to the consensus reached by the Arab leaders at their Amman summit. We hope that it will open the way for stronger inter-Arab relations.

Sawt Al Shaab: Only one option

ISRAEL has been occupying Arab lands for the past 40 years, but has never been able to change the de facto situation, namely that its rule over Arab territory is rejected by the legitimate owners or the land. Israel for the past 40 years has been showing its aggressive nature to the world; and by force, it has been imposing an iron fist rule over the Arab lands in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. But Israeli leaders realise quite well that regardless of the unlimited help and continued support it receives from other nations, Israel cannot perpetuate its occupation of Arab land through terrorism. Above all, Israel with all its might, cannot put down the Arab revolt that has swept the Arab region and can never deter the lawful owners of the land from maintaining the struggle for freedom. Israel's repressive measures imposed on the Arabs and the economic punishment it is imposing on the Arab citizens will do no good. The only option before Israel is to accept peace and recognise the rights of the Palestinian people in their own homeland.

GUEST COLUMN

By Dr. Asa'd Abdul Rahman

Is there any more exaltation for Abu Jihad?

APRIL is supposedly the month of flowers and spring. However, it seems that — for Palestinians and Arabs — it has become a month of martyrdom. During April, we lost the cream of our freedom fighters. From Abdul Qader Al Hussaini, who fell in the field on April 8 exactly 40 years ago, to the assassination of Dr. Basil Al Kubysi by the Israelis in Paris April 5, 1973, to the assassination of Kamal Nassir, Kamal Odwan and Yusuf Al Najjar, on April 9, 1973. These martyrs — plus many others — were all killed in defence of the Palestinian cause. Today we mourn Abu Jihad — the deputy military commander of the PLO.

Tears were not shed from my eyes, as if they were frozen. Ever since I heard the bad news I was half sad and half angry. Sad because the loss of Abu Jihad is a serious blow to our cause, and angry because of the humiliating manner and relative ease with which his assassination was carried out. How could we lose such a brilliant military commander that easy? Why did we make it possible for the enemy to achieve this, and allow the assassins to escape completely unscathed? And how could Palestinian security be violated that easily?

The feeling of anger and frustration was gradually replaced by an increased feeling of grief; not only because we lost Abu Jihad, but because I was more or less astounded by the wider Arab dimension of the calamity. How could the shores and airspace of seven Arab countries overlooking the Mediterranean be trespassed so easily? How could the territories and integrity of the country hosting the Arab League be violated? Is it not because of all of this that the "Palestinian inefficiency" floated to the surface? Isn't Palestinian security — after all — an integral part of the security of this wide expanse of land called the Arab World? Isn't Palestinian security an integral part of the wider Arab security? Why, then, are we so astonished by the violation of Abu Jihad's headquarters, and before

his of Abu Ammar's? The territorial integrity of all the Arab countries surrounding Israel was violated in 1967 and the years that followed. Beirut was violated. The airspace and territorial waters of several Arab countries were flagrantly violated when Israel raided and destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor. Israel is daily violating — amidst complete Arab impotence — the pride and lives of a million and a half Arab Palestinians in the occupied territories, and of thousands of fellow Syrians in the occupied Golan Heights, and of the majority of the Lebanese and Palestinians living in Lebanon.

In the late sixties and early seventies, we heard about Abu Jihad "the rightist," among other degrading names. Then came the moment of truth. It was until the deputy leader of the PLO came more and more under the light of events, that we realised how unfair and unjust we were to him. The modest, amiable Abu Jihad, who also had a charming personality and character, had gained the title of the "Prince of Fateh." At the same time, we knew Abu Jihad, the cautious, reticent military leader, who works much and brags little, and who was deeply involved in unifying the political and military forces of the PLO — an involvement which truly gained him, especially after the Aden, Algiers, Prague, and Tripoli agreements, the title of the "Prince of Palestinian National Unity." Later, we realised how great his contributions were to making and leading the uprising in the occupied territories. Is there anything more prodigious than this? It is obvious, now, that Israel was irritated and obsessed by him to such a high degree that it sent its elite troops some 2,000 kilometres to kill him at point blank range, and with such unprecedented hatred and cold bloodedness. Is there any more exaltation for Abu Jihad than this?

The writer is director of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation and member of the Palestine National Council.

Towards the extreme

By Anthony Lewis

PARIS — Whatever chance there might have been for early negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours is now gone. The fragile hopes raised by Secretary of State Shultz have been destroyed by events of the last three weeks.

The assassination of Abu Jihad, the number two PLO leader, has strengthened the most radical elements in the PLO. No Palestinian who matters is going to come forward now to talk of peace with Israel. Neither, in all likelihood, is Jordan or any other Arab country.

Ezer Weizman, a member of Israel's inner cabinet who wants to find a way to peace with the Palestinians, put the fact bluntly on Israeli army radio. The assassination, he said, "distances the peace process and will bring greater hostility."

That was a predictable result of killing Abu Jihad. It must have been anticipated when, according to detailed reports, the Israeli government ordered the attack. So the assassination showed that effective political power in Israel is now in the hands of men who care little about peace negotiations — or, indeed, are opposed to the idea.

Behind the facade of Israel's national unity government, the policy that matters is being made by the right: Prime Minister Shamir, his Likud Party and even more extreme elements. That was evident in the handling of the other important event of recent weeks: The incident in the West Bank village of Beitza on April 6, when two Palestinians and a 15-year-old Israeli girl were killed.

The girl, first reported killed by a stone, was found by an army inquiry to have been shot. The bullet came from the gun of a guard who accompanied a group of Israeli hikers. An extremist follower of Rabbi Meir Kahane whom the Israeli army had forbidden to carry a gun. Much worse might have happened if a Beitza villager, Mahmoud Gurub Ben Shamma, had not grabbed the gun and bent the barrel, making it unusable.

Last week Israel deported Ben Shamma and five other residents of Beitza. As always in these cases, there were no charges, no trial, just a quick dumping of the men into Lebanon. As always, Israel spurned objections from the United States that for an occupying power to throw people out of their homeland violates international law.

Justice Brandeis wrote 60 years

ago that deporting a man from his home may deprive him of "all that makes life worth living." What kind of justice has Israel come to that it deports a Palestinian who may have saved lives by grabbing a gun from a known fanatic and killer?

The answer to that question is: Settler justice. The Israeli settlers in the West Bank include a large number of religious-nationalist fanatics who make no secret of their belief that the 1.5 million Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied territories must either submit to Israeli domination or get out. Many agree with Rabbi Kahane's policy: Forced expulsion of all Arabs.

Fear of the settlers drove the government's policy after the Beitza incident. To appease the settlers' anger, officials gave the order to blow up 14 houses in Beitza — again without a semblance of justice. The deportation orders followed.

The Beitza affair showed how little moderation the Labour Party brings to the government now. Its leader, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, defended the summary deportations, saying "We are not deporting residents, just inciters and agitators and extremists." Another conviction without a trial.

And what was done after Beitza still was not enough to satisfy the settlers. They demanded that the government also deport Palestinian moderates who have spoken out in the past for negotiations and peace.

The New Republic, a magazine highly supportive of Israel, summed up the political import of the Beitza incident as follows: "It reminded Israelis of the extent to which they are, in fact, hostage to their own fanatics and madmen."

The deepest irony of Israel's headline policies in the West Bank and Gaza is that they are privately opposed by the top ranks of the army. The commanders know that kowtowing to the settlers makes security not less but more difficult. They fear that the course of rejectionism and injustice will increase tensions with the Palestinians and imperil the state.

Perhaps the 40th anniversary of Israel, just celebrated, will make people recall the aspirations that accompanied the dreams. Louis Brandeis was not only a great Supreme Court Justice; he was the leading American Zionist of his time. I think he would look at where Israel is going today and be heartsick — The New York Times.

Scandal haunts Kohl's party in West German state elections

By Bjorn Edlund

Reuter

MOELLIN, West Germany — The ghost of a state premier who died amid political scandal haunts Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) ahead of elections in Schleswig-Holstein state on May 8.

Opinion polls show that Kohl's CDU may well pay for Uwe Barschel's dirty campaign tricks last year against his Social Democrat (SPD) challenger by losing its grip on the northern farming state for the first time in 37 years.

The name of Barschel, who died of an apparent suicide after resigning when his manoeuvring was uncovered by Der Spiegel news magazine, is not heard in campaign speeches.

But CDU candidate Heiko Hoffmann, a low-key politician entrusted with restoring a shattered party image, chose "politics has a new face" as his campaign

poster slogan.

He told Reuters that CDU members ask him about Barschel less often as the campaign draws closer to the May 8 ballot, called after a dead heat in last September's scandal elections.

"But he is obviously still very present," Hoffmann said. "He is always at the back of our minds, and will continue to occupy us for a long time to come."

Hoffmann's campaign leaflet oozes disavowal of the rash, headstrong ways Barschel was known for: "A politician with new qualities, a human being who thinks before replying... He reasons calmly and is willing to listen to the arguments of others."

A posthumous state parliament enquiry said Barschel ordered spying on the sex life of his SPD opponent, Bjoern Engholm, and a false denunciation of Engholm for tax fraud.

"May 8 — a day of wiping the

slate clean," say SPD posters adorning town lamp posts throughout this small state bordering Denmark, East Germany, the North Sea and the Baltic.

The liberal Free Democrats (FDP), which aims at forming a coalition with the CDU, is campaigning as a force to check the power of the CDU.

"The best guarantee against the abuse of power," the FDP poster says.

But polls say that the liberals, junior partners in Kohl's federal centre-right government, cannot bank on garnering the five per cent needed to enter parliament.

Starting anew, leaving Barschel behind, atoning for his excesses, is the recurring undertone of the campaign. But CDU strategists say lingering bitterness may cause many of its traditional voters to abstain.

Constant bickering in the coalition, especially between the CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), does little to help the CDU candidate the state.

But the SPD's Engholm, badly shaken last year by what the West German press dubbed "the Barschel affair," said he was enjoying the novel air of decency in state politics.

"The tone is totally different now," he told Reuters at a campaign stop in Ploen, a small town in an area of hills and lakes called the Switzerland of Holstein.

"I have not heard any personal attacks at all," he said.

"This allows the campaign to concentrate on the issues, which I prefer. But it makes things boring for people who are used to the shrill tones of German politics, and who won't listen unless you call the other fellow an idiot."

But changes in the combative tone of German politics, and the dent in the CDU's image, were not the only repercussions of last year's scandal.

Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg, a former premier in this state and Barschel's political mentor, lost his position as Kohl's tipped successor over the affair.

Diplomats said Kohl let Stoltenberg ride out the storm alone when the SPD called for his resignation, in order to cut down the size of a potential challenger.

In federal politics, leaving Stoltenberg a couple of sizes smaller was the most main fallout of the Barschel scandal, a Bonn-based European diplomat said.

Schleswig-Holstein, which after World War II had its population doubled by refugees from East Germany and former German provinces in Eastern Europe, is fighting decay in its main industries — farming and shipbuilding.

Both Hoffmann, who has not written off the chance to form a CDU-FDP government, and Engholm, who proudly points to polls giving the SPD between 47 and 50 per cent of the vote, make the economy their main non-Barschel campaign issue.

Absenteeism and a drift of the traditional CDU farm vote toward small splinter groups on the far right make for a gloomy picture for the CDU.

In the state, the environmentalist Greens are dominated by a faction which has ruled out coalitions with any party.

In Barschel's home town of Moellin, a lake-side resort of picturesque red-brick buildings set among gentle fields and forests, no campaign rallies are planned.

"The shock is still there," said Liselotte Rotbe, who owns a cafe beside the old water mill that gave the town its name.

"I don't know if I'll vote this time," she said, adding she is a longtime CDU member. "If you have been let down like we were, politicians will have to earn our trust all over again."

OPEN FORUM

Humane ways, please

ONCE again it is proudly brought to our notice that dogs are being poisoned to "eliminate the harmful animals... as large areas of the northern Jordan Valley are infested with them," and also plagues of rats!

It is not time in this enlightened day and age that the authorities used other more humane methods? Unfortunately for rats, the only method for them is poisoning, because they live in holes and cannot exactly be "rounded up" — but dogs can, and can then be humanely destroyed. Poisoning is extremely painful and long-drawn-out and should be stopped.

I dread to think where the substance is being put for the dogs. As they do not live in holes, it must be where other animals, perhaps genuine pets with owners, and possibly unsuspecting children have access to it.

If huge numbers of dogs are running around then it is the fault of human beings who are allowing them to do so. The answer is to educate them to look after their dogs properly, and eventually to encourage a neutering programme to prevent hordes of unwanted puppies being born.

Let us support a new animal welfare society which should in time be able to deal properly with this problem. Then perhaps all owners will put collars with name tags attached, on their dogs, so that they can be identified and not classed as "strays."

Meanwhile, authorities, there are other methods of humane destruction, which work perfectly well in other countries. Why should dogs suffer agonies when their only crime is just that they exist?

Chris Larier

French Jews stunned by growth of far-right National Front

By Vanora Bennett

Reuter

PARIS — French Jews recalling their childhood in Nazi-occupied Europe said Monday they were stunned by the rise of the extreme-right National Front Party shown in the first round of France's presidential elections.

In the narrow, crowded streets of Paris's wholesale clothes district, a traditional Jewish quarter, traders in shops and cafes said the unexpectedly strong performance of National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen in balloting Sunday had reawakened devastating folk memories.

Le Pen created a nationwide furor last autumn by describing Nazi gas chambers in World War Two as a "minor point" of history but insists he is not anti-Semitic. "Last night was a terrible shock for me. Le Pen brought back all the fears I grew up with in Germany," Eva, a waitress in a bustling Jewish restaurant, told Reuters.

"I would never, never vote for anyone who played on the bestial and brutal side of people's characters to win power for himself," she added.

Le Pen ran for office on a straight "France for the French" ticket. Last night, he bumped up support for his campaign to oust Third World immigrants to an unexpected 15 per cent, half as much again as in the 1986 parliamentary elections.

Among those who have flocked to his standard is a Jewish group which says it numbers 1,000 of the country's 700,000 Jews. To his Jewish supporters, Le Pen's main appeal lies in his pledge to send Arab immigrants back to North Africa.

But representatives of the major French Jewish groups said they were resolved to stop the spread of a French extreme right, although they have no tradition of voting as a coherent bloc.

Their concern has been sparked by pollsters who say Le Pen's tranche of right-wing voters has grown so big it could now be the key to choosing a new president.

Le Pen himself was knocked out of the running but mainstream rightist candidate Prime Minister Jacques Chirac can only hope to beat the left-wing favourite, President Francois Mitterrand, if he rallies the National Front to his banner.

Mitterrand scored 33.9 per cent of votes against Chirac's 19.74

per cent. He is tipped to win about 53 per cent support in the second round run-off on May 8.

In the rag trade district, where two of the father figures of French Socialism, former Prime Ministers Leon Blum and Pierre Mendes-France, both grew up in Jewish homes, Mitterrand came out top in Sunday's poll.

"I am stupefied by last night's results," Leon Masliach, director of the French Council of Rabbis, told Reuters.

"I would be surprised to see Chirac compromise with Le Pen. But if it does come about, I believe very strongly that the Jewish community will not vote beside Le Pen's followers."

We do not tell our community how to vote. It is up to them to choose a candidate. But I don't think a democratic candidate who linked up with someone who trades on xenophobia and hatred of foreigners would find support among us."

France's chief Rabbi Joseph Sitruk, who has in the past commented the rise of the National Front with that of Nazism in the 1930s, was unavailable for comment.

But the representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF), which groups most Jewish associations, issued a sharp warning to the two presidential finalists to keep away from Le Pen.

"We are extremely concerned about Le Pen's score. We are asking the remaining candidates respectfully but firmly to do nothing to attract his supporters and not to contemplate letting the National Front get a foothold in national, regional or local government," a CRIF statement said.

Only Robert Hemmerdinger, vice-president of the National Committee of Jewish Frenchmen which back Le Pen, was jubilant at the outcome of the poll.

"There is no racial problem in France. The problem is finding ways not to be destroyed by the rise of Islam. There is no one but Le Pen I could have voted for," he told Reuters.

"On the one hand, we have a Judeo-Christian culture. On the other, we see a Muslim civilisation based on the Koran and deformed by the rise of violent fundamentalism," he said.

"Members of my group are concentrated in the southern half of France where the Arab presence is strongest. The point is that Jews don't like Arabs and I think they are right not to."

LETTERS

Thank you, but...

Letter to the Editor

IN response to Khalid A. Abdulatif's almost 1,000 words long "One shining hour?" (Open Forum, April 19), I certainly like to thank the author for his advice that the Palestinians shall pray daily. However, his advice(s) to watch out "extremists who..." etc. is by far another story.

How long will it take us Arabs to realise and understand that poetry and realpolitik are really two different things?

Dr. Salah Salah

Amman

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Libya restores telecommunications with Egypt

BEIRUT (R) — Libya, after declaring it would withdraw troops from the border with Egypt, said Wednesday it had restored telecommunications between the two countries. The official news agency JANA, monitored in Beirut, said: "The popular committee for communication has restored all telephone and telegraph lines with Egypt to allow the Libyan and Egyptian peoples free and easy communication." Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi announced March 28 he would withdraw all Libyan forces from the border and allow Egyptians freely in and out of Libya. He added he would maintain opposition to the government of President Hosni Mubarak but not militarily. Mubarak at the time denounced Qadhafi's move as a trick.

Kuwait Boeing flies home from Algiers

ALGIERS (AP) — The Kuwait Airways Boeing 747 held by hijackers for 16 days took off for home from Algiers airport Wednesday, one week after its last 31 hostages were released. Kuwait Ambassador Gasen Boursuli said a relief crew had been standing by for five days waiting for the plane to be thoroughly cleaned and declared airworthy by Algerian aviation authorities. Boursuli said the plane was being taken directly to Kuwait to resume regular service with the airline, which has resumed its service to Far East destinations. The airline suspended its flights to the Far East after the Jumbo jet was hijacked on a flight from Bangkok, Thailand, to Kuwait. Boursuli said a thorough check of the plane disclosed no serious mechanical damage. "But it was terribly dirty inside and most of the seats were damaged," he said. "Everything is OK now." Algerian authorities refused to allow Western reporters or photographers to view the inside of the plane.

Iraq to issue Fao stamp

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq will issue a postage stamp to commemorate the liberation of the Fao peninsula from Iranian occupation, the Iraqi News Agency reported Tuesday. The government postal agency invited artists to take part in a competition for the design of the stamp, the agency reported. Iraq early last week retook the southern Fao peninsula, which Iran had captured more than two years ago.

U.N. chief: Cyprus solution on its own

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Tuesday a solution of the Cyprus problem should not be too dependent on a resolution of differences between Greece and Turkey. Responding to a question at a press lunch, he said: "I am confident that a much better relationship between Turkey and Greece will help (with the Cyprus question)." But he added: "I don't think that we should make a solution... too much linked with a solution of the problems between Greece and Turkey." Cyprus was an independent country and a resolution of its difficulties should not depend on a solution of those between Turkey and Greece, "even if they are supposed to be the mother countries" of the island's two communities, the secretary general added.

Lebanese deputy dies

BEIRUT (R) — A Greek Orthodox member of the Lebanese parliament, Selim Maalouf, died Wednesday, leaving 76 surviving members of the 99-seat single-chamber legislature, official sources said. They said Maalouf, 75, who represented the eastern town of Zahle, had been ill for some time. Maalouf was elected in 1972, the last time parliamentary elections were held in the country torn by civil war since 1975. The parliament is due to elect a new president in the summer when Amin Gemayel ends his six-year term.

Demjanjuk upbeat but on 'suicide watch'

TEL AVIV (AP) — John Demjanjuk's family met for two hours Tuesday with the retired Ohio autoworker sentenced to die for Nazi war crimes and said Demjanjuk's mood was upbeat and he was optimistic about his appeal.

But an official at the prison where Demjanjuk is held said guards were ordered to watch him to prevent a suicide attempt. An ashen-faced Demjanjuk, 68, was returned to his solitary confinement cell in the maximum security Ayalon prison Monday after being sentenced to death for allegedly executing hundreds of thousands of people as the brutal Nazi guard "Ivan the Terrible."

Demjanjuk, who insisted he was innocent throughout the 14-month trial, plans to appeal to the supreme court. Israel prison service spokesman Johnny Tester said Demjanjuk was placed "under 24-hour guard, and we are asking his guards to be more careful, more alert. We want to be prepared in case of a suicide attempt."

Demjanjuk's son John Jr. said the precaution's were "a bunch of baloney."

"They're going to pop up with that kind of stupid propaganda to try to make it seem like he might kill himself out of remorse or

guilt," John Jr., 22, told the AP. "My father would never attempt something like that because he's innocent and he'll fight this to the last minute," the younger Demjanjuk said.

Demjanjuk's daughter Lydia Maday, 38, said her father was cheerful Tuesday during the family's first meeting since he was sentenced to die.

"We definitely get our strength from him. You keep thinking when you go in there you're going to have to pump him up and it's just the opposite," Mrs. Maday said. "He's prepared to move on and get ready for the appeal."

She said Demjanjuk, who was extradited to Israel from his suburban Cleveland home, told the family he bore no animosity towards the Israeli judges or the 650 spectators who clapped and chanted "death, death" when the sentence was announced.

"He's not vindictive. There's no hate," Maday said. "He just said it's a shame that people have to rejoice in someone else's sorrow. You just have to overlook it. A lot of people didn't feel that way."

Maday said Demjanjuk, a devout Ukrainian orthodox Christian, cited from the Bible and said "Christ was spat upon and vil-

Iranian envoy sponsors Amal-Hizbollah meeting

BEIRUT (R) — Rival Lebanese Shi'ite militias have held talks for the first time since bloody street battles three weeks ago, Iran said Wednesday after sponsoring the meeting.

Officials of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) and Nabih Berri, head of the Syrian-backed Amal militia, met Tuesday at the Iranian embassy in west Beirut, it said.

A statement by the embassy after the meeting said they had agreed "to consolidate Islamic ranks to avert any danger." But it was unclear whether differences between the two forces were resolved.

Three days of bitter clashes between Hizbollah and Amal in South Lebanon between April 5-7 killed at least 38 people and injured dozens.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of an Iranian mediation

team, arranged the talks which included top Shi'ite clergy and Iranian Ambassador Ahmad Dastmalchian.

An official close to the embassy said Tuesday Iranian mediation efforts had succeeded in easing tensions.

The fighting was the first open confrontation between the two rivals for control of South Lebanon. Amal said afterwards it had crushed Hizbollah, financed and strongly backed by Iran, in the area.

Jannati, a member of Iran's senior constitutional body, the 12-man Council of Guardians, who also heads the Islamic public organization, arrived in Beirut April 19.

He set up a five-man committee to probe the conflict and has held meetings with the two sides and with leading Shi'ite clergy.

King reaffirms Jordan's unshakeable national stands

(Continued from page 1)

He said the Iranian regime was "attempting to exploit religion and faith to strike at religion and faith and strike at the people who lived and still live in the sanctity of Islamic holy places at the heart of the Islamic World."

He told the latter gathering at the Armed Forces Officers Club in Zarqa that on the other side, "Jordan stands at the longest confrontation line with a formidable power that possesses the same excuses and intentions and hatred towards our Arab Nation, our faith and all that is sacred to every single one of us."

In reference to the five-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the King said that the people in the occupied territories lived through 20 years of occupation and injustice at a time when all people were

concerned with human rights. "Then came the explosion and this uprising to affirm in the occupied lands, as the Iraqi steadfastness does on Arab lands, that the Arab human has not weakened and will not weaken and that we have a great duty and responsibility towards our kinsmen in the occupied territories," the King said.

Following are major excerpts of the King's speech:

"Hussein I preferred to sacrifice everything in his commitment to the Prophet's pledge, never to give up the Palestine cause and the Palestinian land. King Abdullah sacrificed his life for the cause and we are all following the same course... perhaps circumstances impose it on us to pay more attention than before to deprive the enemy of all chances to hurt us and our steadfastness. Thank God, we have covered many

stages in building our strength and we have exerted and will continue to exert more efforts.

"The obstacles that stand in our way are not in the area of people's preparedness, awareness, loyalty or dedication... they may be material obstacles. But despite that, our Arab army which carried out its duty in Jerusalem in 1948 consisted of 6,500 Arab men. The Arab army today numbers 120,000 men in addition to the People's Army, the reserves and modern weaponry that are in safe hands as a shield for this nation and in confrontation of threats and a hope in the inevitability of the return of rights to the rightful owners.

"And if conditions in this world are in favour of realising the full rights of the people of Palestine through political action, our opinion in this is very clear, honest and known. It is that this must be achieved through the convening of an international conference to be attended by all parties to the conflict in addition to the five permanent members of the Security Council on the basis of United Nations Resolution 242 and 338 that guarantees the inadmissibility of the occupation of land by war in addition to other articles. And what needs to be stressed is that the Palestine problem must be solved in all its aspects. And if this is the goal, then the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) must essentially take part and contribute effectively in this conference as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

"I was going through my papers today and I found this paper that contains the historic decision to unite the two banks (of River Jordan) dated April 24, 1950. First of all, this document endorses a full unity based on the constitutional parliamentary system and equality in rights and duties among all citizens.

"Secondly, it stressed the guaranteeing of all Arab rights in Palestine and defending these rights by all legitimate means and a final settlement within the bounds of national aspirations, Arab cooperation and international justice.

"I want to say honestly, sincerely and unequivocally that this was the position in 1950 and this is the position now in terms of stressing the full Arab rights in Palestine and defending these rights by all legitimate means and the final settlement within the bounds of national aspirations, Arab cooperation and international justice.

"In other words, the trust that has waited these years was not an alternative and will never be one day an alternative for the effort, but was part of gathering resources to restore Palestinian rights. And whoever joined Jordan throughout these long years did not and will not lose his rights on his national Palestinian soil that we hope God will help us restore in the near future.

"We have no ambition or intention or goal but to carry out our duty of supporting the march and standing on the side of right so that the rights are restored to its owners. This course was drawn for us those who passed before us on the long road, including Hussein Bin Ali who has sacrificed everything, was exiled and died for Palestine and now rests beside Al Aqsa.

"We will not divert from this course and this is why we insist to attend an international conference as a sovereign and independent state if it was convened and we insist that all concerned Arab parties must attend at the forefront of whom is the Palestine Liberation Organisation. We will not be a replacement for the organisation nor a representative of the organisation or the Arab Palestinian people... the Palestinian cause cannot be resolved without full Palestinian participation and full Arab support, and we are at the forefront in this field, this is what I wanted to concentrate on and have talked about recently.

"Our means for achieving our goals and fulfilling our duties is through cooperation, solidarity and coherence in a way that relieves our conscience and makes us feel we have done what we can for a better future."

The latter banquet in Zarqa was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, a number of ministers, parliamentarians and other officials.

Jordan Times

Tel: 667171-6

U.S. navy resumes escort operations

BAHRAIN (AP) — A convoy of U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti tankers, the first since the armed clashes between the United States and Iran 10 days earlier, headed up the Gulf Wednesday after bad weather forced an overnight postponement.

Three Kuwaiti tankers and a fourth U.S.-flagged ship were sighted off the United Arab Emirates coast at mid-morning after passing through the Strait of Hormuz during the night. There were no reports of any activity by Iran's navy or missile batteries during the passage.

A U.S. central command spokesman confirmed the movement of the convoy, the 26th this year and the 48th since the escort operations began last July. U.S. officials do not acknowledge the convoys until they have passed certain danger points in the Gulf.

The convoy was already nearly two weeks behind schedule when it began Tuesday, only to turn back because a sandstorm over the central Gulf posed a hazard to helicopters and patrol craft assigned to scout for mines ahead of the ships.

The group was escorted by four U.S. warships, the destroyers O'Brien and Merrill, the guided missile destroyer Joseph Strauss and the guided missile cruiser Wainwright, as it headed into the Gulf.

All four of those ships took part in the U.S. navy's April 18 strikes against Iranian oil platforms and ships in the Gulf, in retaliation for the sowing of mines by Iran, one of which damaged a U.S. missile frigate.

The Kuwaiti tankers were the 46,723-ton Gas Queen, a liquefied gas carrier and the oil products tankers Chesapeake City and Ocean City, both 79,999 tons.

The fourth tanker, the 92,854-ton MV Golden Monarch, dropped out to head for its destination in the United Arab Emirates, accompanied by the O'Brien. The ship was on a commercial trip but entitled to protection because it flies the American flag.

An unidentified tanker flying the British flag sailed alongside the single-file convoy as it entered the Gulf.

Ships of other nations often "hitchhike" with the American units through the strait and southern Gulf waters where Iran's gunboats and armed speedboats regularly attack commercial shipping.

The U.S. navy has been under increasing pressure to get the Kuwaiti tanker convoys moving again, despite concern about mines and the threat of Iranian missile attacks in the Hormuz, where five missiles were fired at U.S. ships during the April 18 skirmishes.

The tanker movements had fallen behind schedule since the April 14 mining of the U.S. frigate Samuel B. Roberts and the subsequent discovery of about a dozen more mines in central Gulf shipping lanes — the event that led to the U.S. retaliatory attacks.

U.S. officials say they had evidence showing the mines were newly laid by Iran. The "mine danger areas" were swept by U.S. and European navy craft.

However, one source, asking not to be identified, said there remained some worry about mines, and the convoy was aborted Tuesday because a sandstorm would have impeded helicopters and patrol craft accompanying the ships.

The Gas Queen and another tanker had been slated to enter the Gulf April 15. But that movement was cancelled after the Roberts was holed.

Subsequently, four more tankers arrived at the convoy staging anchorage off the port of Khor Fakkan, in the Gulf of Oman.

Iranians 'down to their bare bones of navy'

DUBAI (R) — Iran's navy, decimated by U.S. forces in a Gulf shoot-out 10 days ago, has pressed a landing ship and supply vessel into emergency patrol duty in the Strait of Hormuz, Western military sources said Wednesday.

The make-shift force, taking over the surveillance role of Iran's frigates disabled and sunk by the U.S. navy, has been sighted keeping watch on merchant shipping in the strait for the last two days but has not openly challenged vessels.

"The Iranian navy was decimated by the Americans and they really are down to the bare bones of their fleet now," said one military source.

In a series of clashes with U.S. forces April 18, Iran's British-built frigate the Sahand was sunk and a sister ship the Sabalan was disabled. A French-built Kaman fast attack craft, the Joshan, was

blown out of the water.

That stripped the backbone of Iran's navy since its remaining two frigates, bought by the late Shah of Iran, are laid up at its southern Gulf port of Bandar Abbas for a refit.

The sources said the two vessels from the navy's auxiliary forces had been now been drafted onto the Gulf patrol to keep up a presence in the Strait of Hormuz.

They are the British-built landing ship Tonb ordered just before the fall of the Shah in 1979 and the West German-made tanker and supply vessel Booshehr, commissioned in 1974.

Both have minimal armament, with small calibre defensive weapons, and pose little direct threat to Gulf shipping.

But the sources said they appeared to be logging movements of merchant vessels and were probably being used in conjunction with increased aerial surveillance to co-ordinate possible attacks by Revolutionary Guards in speed boats.

Iran's navy and Revolutionary Guards — a separate force which works in close cooperation — have attacked 31 ships in the Gulf this year, often in retaliation for Iraqi strikes against Tehran's fleet of oil tankers.

The Sahand and Sabalan had performed an important command function in the southern Gulf and some military sources had expected two ageing destroyers, bought from the U.S. navy in the early 1970s, to be used in their place. But neither have been spotted in action since the clash with American forces.

Iranian Revolutionary Guards attacked three vessels in the wake of that clash, but since then have hit only one ship.

Top American admiral says U.S. navy cannot counter every Iranian attack

WASHINGTON (AP) — American warships cannot be expected to counter every Iranian attack on merchant ships in the Gulf despite last week's demonstration of U.S. military prowess, the navy's top admiral said Tuesday.

"I can offer the observation of a lot of personal pride and satisfaction in the way they did their jobs," said Admiral Carlisle A.H. Trost, the chief of naval operations, referring to fighting April 18 that saw six Iranian vessels crippled or sunk and no U.S. ships hit.

"But if someone wants to make an iron-clad guarantee that we will counter any attack, I'd say first of all that such a guarantee would be patently impossible because you cannot foreclose the possibility of attack by those large numbers of small craft that are

always present over there," Trost said in an interview with the AP.

The 58-year-old Trost, the navy's uniformed leader for almost two years, displayed animation and pique when discussing recent budget actions by Congress that he said would cut into readiness.

"Readiness is a hard thing to measure," he said. "You don't put a dollar figure on readiness generally because no one can appreciate that."

"What they appreciate is the fact that in last week's engagements, for example, everything went right for our guys and wrong for the other guy."

"Had it been the other way around, you can imagine the hue and cry we'd hear in this town right now," he said.

On Monday, White House

spokesman Marlin Fitzwater played down reports of an expansion of the American naval role in the Gulf. "Right now, the rules of engagement are essentially the same as they were last week," he said.

Trost said he had not received any new orders. He stressed, however, that any policy change might not involve any increase in ships.

If American commanders are simply given the flexibility to intervene when in position to do so, then "that entails no changes in force level," he said.

Trost said Pentagon officials were surprised the Iranians came out to fight last week after the United States destroyed two offshore platforms in retaliation for a mining that damaged the frigate Samuel B. Roberts.

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Key OPEC players mull non-OPEC export cut offer

VIENNA (R) — Six key OPEC ministers started a meeting Wednesday to mull an historic offer by a group of non-OPEC oil producers to join in output curbs to raise world prices.

The seven non-OPEC sellers, including Mexico and Egypt, offered at talks in Vienna Tuesday to cut exports by five per cent if the group makes a reciprocal move.

"Cooperation (with OPEC) is only just beginning," Mexican Oil Minister Fernando Hiriart told reporters.

He was speaking after a meeting late Tuesday night between an OPEC panel consisting of Algeria, Indonesia, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela with the non-OPEC seven — Angola, China, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, Mexico and Oman.

At that session, Mexico led the seven in offering to cut exports by five per cent if OPEC made a reciprocal pledge.

OPEC must now work out how to respond to the unprecedented offer of cooperation which — if implemented — would help mop up surplus crude oil arising from over-production by OPEC and increasing output from non-OPEC producers, analysts said.

Hisham Nazer, oil minister of Saudi Arabia, told reporters Wednesday: "The fact that (non-OPEC) are here is very encouraging."

He said he would like more non-OPEC countries to take part in such cooperation — those not present include the Soviet Union, the biggest producer, and two staunch Western free-market opponents of group-style tactics, the United States and Britain.

The Saudis, the biggest OPEC exporters, have recently been resisting new production cuts.

But a Venezuelan delegate to the Vienna talks quoted the Saudi delegation as saying they were now willing to cooperate in any cuts if the non-OPEC offer was big enough.

"The Saudis have told us that if the cuts are sizeable enough, they are willing to cooperate in cutting," said the delegate, who declined to be identified.

The OPEC president, Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman, said on his way in to Wednesday's talks that he expected a common stand to be agreed by OPEC.

Asked if OPEC would agree any cuts Wednesday, he said: "Today? Maybe tomorrow."

The OPEC panel of six nations which was meeting Wednesday cannot negotiate cuts with the non-OPEC sellers, but it can discuss their proposals and report to a full OPEC ministerial conference set for Thursday.

Analysts calculated that a five

per cent export cut by the seven non-OPEC states would amount to around 180,000 to 205,000 barrels per day.

With a similar cut by OPEC producers, that would help boost sagging spot or free market prices until expected higher demand due to restocking ahead of next winter materialises.

Prices fell early this year some \$4 below OPEC's target price of \$18 a barrel, but have firmed \$1.50 to \$2 on news of the Vienna talks and heightened Gulf tension.

A decision by Saudi Arabia Tuesday to cut diplomatic links with Iran was seen by delegates in Vienna as causing many ripples in OPEC, which usually ensures that oil and politics do not mix.

A surprise alliance in 1986 between the ideologically opposed Gulf nations broke a logjam in OPEC negotiations in that year, and one analyst who specialises in Gulf affairs said the rift could not last too long "as both sides need each other."

But Thursday's full OPEC conference will be the first since the break they sit at the same table.

Iranian Deputy Oil Minister Kazempour Ardebili, who said he favoured an OPEC supply cut, Wednesday blamed the United States for pressuring Riyadh into the diplomatic move and added that it was meant to have a negative impact on the Vienna talks.

Ardebili told Reuters: "At this stage when there is hope and good signs of cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC it is intended to have a negative impact on increasing the price of oil. I hope it will not affect the cooperation emerging to restore prices."

"My personal view is that the break of relations came under pressure from the United States whose hostile activities against Iran have escalated in recent days..."

Iran willing to cut production quota

Ardebili said Iran was willing to see a cut in its OPEC-assigned output quota of 2.369 million barrels per day (b/d) as part of an overall deal.

Asked by reporters if Iran was willing to see its quota cut, said "yes, yes."

He also said he was sure the 13 OPEC ministers meeting Thursday would support efforts to raise prices, but the actual amount of

any OPEC output cut depended on talks between OPEC and the non-OPEC producers over "actual, accurate verified figures of exports."

Ardebili urged other non-OPEC producers like Norway, the Soviet Union and Brunei to join in cooperating with OPEC.

"We are urging... Norway, the USSR and Brunei to offer not only their moral support but also to come up with exact concrete reductions in their exports to the same extent other that non-OPEC producers are going to contribute," he said.

The Iranian official also held out the prospect of further talks later in the year to chart an output strategy for the second half of 1988 for both the group, and the other exporters.

The present talks are concentrating on the period to the end of June.

"We have to sit together later on in May to formulate a common strategy for the second half of the year based on the facts and figures for demand and supply," Ardebili said.

"Hopefully another meeting will take place of more non-OPEC members and later on in June there may be nine to 10 (non-OPEC producers) together with OPEC," he said.

Kuwait sees firmer oil prices

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah said Wednesday he expected world oil prices to firm in the coming weeks regardless of the outcome of talks between OPEC and non-OPEC producers.

"I think the market is going to pick up irrespective of what we do. The fundamentals are good," he told reporters before leaving Kuwait for Vienna.

"We are entering a season when demand should pick up," he declined to comment on an offer by seven non-OPEC nations to cut their exports by five per cent as part of a joint bid with OPEC states to boost sagging oil prices.

He said OPEC should work to define production quotas and give Iraq a quota.

Baghdad rejected a quota at the last full OPEC meeting last December, insisting on output parity with its war foe Iran. Industry analysts view high Iraqi production as a big factor in the current oil market weakness.

"If we get our act together, that will be the meaningful gesture," Sheikh Ali said.

Asked if this meant giving Iraq a quota, he said: "Yes, and finding exactly what production is and finding exactly what is counted in production and what isn't. If we get that in, that would be more significant than a cut (in OPEC output)."

NRA sees abundant gas finds

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) is pursuing a gas exploration programme at Al Risheh, 150 kilometres east of Amman, and has reason to believe that more abundant gas finds will be discovered, NRA Director-General Kamal Jreisat was quoted as saying Wednesday.

Al Dustour Arabic newspaper quoted Jreisat as telling the French News Agency that work on the second phase of the Aqaba thermal power station has been delayed pending the results of the current exploration because it is hoped that more and more gas would be used by the Aqaba station for the generation of electric power.

Most of Jordan's fuel is now imported from Iraq and Saudi Arabia and NRA hopes that the new gas finds will help reduce the Kingdom's annual fuel bill which totalled \$500 million in 1985 but dropped to \$420 million in 1987 in view of the decline in oil prices.

At present, gas produced by the Al Risheh fields near the Iraqi borders comes out at the rate of 2,000 barrels a day but studies indicate that the area would be developed to increase its gas production soon, Jreisat said.

He added he was optimistic about the future despite the fact that the gas deposits at Al Risheh are not sufficient for the Kingdom.

He said that at the present rate of production at the Al Risheh deposits will suffice Jordan for the next seven years, but the produced gas barely covers one tenth of the country's overall needs of gas to operate thermal power stations.

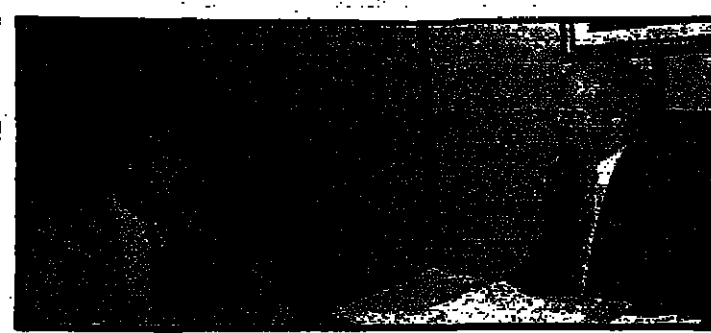
Riyadh Bank reports increase in '87 profit

BAHRAIN (R) — Riyadh Bank, Saudi Arabia's second largest commercial bank, reported Tuesday an increase in 1987 net profit and announced a split in shares.

The bank said net profit during a shortened, 10-month reporting year ended Dec. 31, 1987, rose to 155.4 million riyals (\$41.4 million).

The Jeddah-based bank is switching its reporting period from the lunar Islamic year to the Gregorian calendar year used by the kingdom's nine joint-venture banks.

Net profit for the full Islamic year ended Feb. 28, 1987, was 167.7 million riyals.



Amman Financial Market Director-General Hashem Sabbagh (right) explains privileges to Petra correspondent (Petra photo)

AFM chief highlights investment privileges

AMMAN (Petra) — Activity at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) during the first quarter of 1988 was moderate as the total number of shares traded in various transactions reached about 33 million against nearly 34 million in the same period of last year, AFM Director-General Hashem Al Sabbagh said Wednesday.

It is hoped that the coming summer will witness an improvement in the volume of share trading at the market, Sabbagh said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Sabbagh said that Jordan offers all Arab investors privileges equal to those enjoyed by Jordanians with regard to ownership of shares or investments in government bonds without any restrictions or conditions.

He noted that all non-Jordanian Arabs continue to enjoy exemptions given to Jordanians in all types of investments i.e. industry, tourism, transport, education, health, real estate and housing projects.

All investors are given exemptions from paying tax and fees in certain investments and all capital

is well protected against nationalisation, confiscation or seizure except through a court order.

The Jordanian law, he said, has offered all Arabs the right to invest in the commercial, insurance and financial sectors through joint ventures with Jordanian citizens to the extent of 49 per cent of the total capital invested in a single project.

Sabbagh described these measures and privileges as paving the way for transforming Jordan into a regional centre in financial and services fields.

He said that the country's geographical location and skilled manpower potential help to achieve that goal.

Over the past 10 years the AFM has been striving to promote investments in the country by publishing data and information useful to investors, guiding them towards what is best for them and for the country, Sabbagh said.

He added that the AFM's annual reports, handbooks and information bulletins about trading in shares and stocks have been providing useful help to the investors in Jordan's development projects.



Deputy Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi (centre) listens to a briefing on Tunisian products after he formally opened a Tunisian trade fair in Amman Wednesday (Petra photo)

Tunisian fair opens

AMMAN (Petra) — A ten-day Tunisian trade fair has been opened at the Greater Amman Municipality building downtown. On display are different items of Tunisian products ranging from food supplies, to scents and clothes and handicrafts.

The fair, which was opened by Deputy Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi, was in implementation of an agreement by the Jorda-

nian-Tunisian Joint Economic Committee signed last September.

According to Jordanian and Tunisian officials, the volume of trade between Tunisia and Jordan has reached the JD 30 million mark shared equally between the two sides.

Tunisian officials and businessmen attended the opening ceremony.

Experts urge tougher counterfeiting laws

GENEVA (R) — The international fight against counterfeiting and piracy of items ranging from luxury goods to spare car parts got a boost when experts from 50 countries called for tougher national laws to punish violators.

About 120 experts, representing 50 countries and 50 private groups, opened a four-day meeting under the auspices of the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

They will review non-binding legislative measures, which WIPO has recommended for adoption, to combat piracy and

counterfeiting through stronger civil and criminal penalties.

"The problem is estimated to cost businesses billions and billions of dollars every year," Ludwig Baeumer, director of WIPO's Division of Industrial Property, told Reuters.

WIPO was founded 10 years ago to promote protection of patents, trademarks and copyrights. It has 117 member states.

South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Italy, Morocco and Turkey are among countries where experts allege that product counterfeiters relying on cheap labour are active.

Pierre Aubert, a former president and foreign minister of Switzerland who retired from politics last year, addressed the WIPO meeting as president of the International Committee Against Counterfeiting (COLC).

"The fight against counterfeiting is a daily preoccupation of manufacturing firms and service industries. It has spread to all sectors of the economy: Food, mechanical, electronic, chemical, pharmaceutical, publishing, etcetera," he said.

"Counterfeiting is insidiously killing our enterprises," he said, adding that some companies were paying between two and three per cent of their annual turnover to fight abuses.

The lobbying group, which opened here in March, has eight European member states: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and West Germany.

The COLC estimates counterfeit goods account for three to five per cent of world trade, and last year cost 130,000 jobs in the United States and 100,000 in Western Europe.

Aubert also said developing countries lacking adequate legislation against counterfeiting were losing out on investment and technology transfers.

Aubert hopes soon to travel to Seoul, where the Olympic Summer games open in September, to discuss with South Korean officials a boom expected in counterfeiting during the event.

"One country is to be under cross-examination this year — South Korea," a senior COLC official told Reuters. "The expected rush of counterfeiting there during the Olympics will be a main priority for our group."

Sang Won Rhee, director general of South Korea's Office of Patents Administration, said in a speech here: "Korea recognises the effects of counterfeiting and piracy not only prejudice the legitimate rights of private right-holders, but could also create serious obstacles to worldwide trade."

But he said nations where counterfeiting took place should not get blanket punishment from trading partners.

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for April 27, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	112839	JD 102844	255
Top three companies:			
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	18800	JD 22467	44
Jordan Spinning and Weaving	23987	JD 17532	54
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	3400	JD 7825	17
Parallel market:	197943	JD 82872	—
Development bonds:	—	—	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8712/22	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2275/85	Canadian dollar
	1.6780/90	Deutschemarks
	1.8820/25	Dutch guilders
	1.3902/12	Swiss francs
	35.08/11	Belgian francs
	5.7000/30	French francs
	1247/1248	Italian lire
	125.10/20	Japanese yen
	5.8845/95	Swedish crowns
	6.1710/60	Norwegian crowns
	6.4520/70	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	448.90/449.40	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices closed slightly firmer after directionless trading in all sectors. The All Ordinaries Index gained 2.1 to 1,443.3.

TOKYO — Prices closed lower on profit-taking after four straight advances with a lack of fresh positive factors keeping trade subdued. The Nikkei Index fell 54.80 to 27,191.97.

HONG KONG — Prices closed little changed on a steady U.S. dollar and Wall Street's recent gains, brokers said. The Hang Seng Index rose 6.05 to 2,592.02.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed narrowly mixed in lethargic trading, with investors reluctant to take new positions in the absence of leads from overseas. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 0.5 to 956.97.

BOMBAY — Price rose sharply, spurred by tax relief measures announced in parliament. The measures included the waiving of income tax on export profits. Tata Steel gained 21.25 to 712.50.

FRANKFURT — Prices closed a quiet session higher, boosted by a technical reaction to recent falls. The Commerzbank Index, calculated at mid-session, rose 1.4 to 1,362.5.

ZURICH — Prices closed slightly higher in moderate trading after the overnight gain on Wall Street and a rise in the dollar. The All-Share Swiss Index rose 6.9 to 825.1.

PARIS — Prices ended slightly higher in active trading. The bourse indicator rose 0.39 per cent.

LONDON — Shares closed near the day's lows despite a treasury denial that Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson had resigned. The FTSE-100 index at 1600 GMT was up 5.9 at 1,806.9.

NEW YORK — Prices were higher at midday but down from earlier levels on some light blue chip sales. The Dow Jones industrial average was up seven points at 2,052.

Soviet state farm offers shares to workers

MOSCOW (R) — The "Lenin's Legacy" state farm outside Moscow has begun selling shares to its workers in a pilot project aimed at increasing investment as state subsidies are phased out under Kremlin economic reform.

The weekly Moscow News said Wednesday that shares worth 250,000 roubles (\$415,000) had been sold to date and that stockholders would get six per cent annual interest, double the rate offered by state banks, if the farm did well.

"The affair has started out in a way which is profitable both to individuals and to the state," it commented.

Many farmers had bought shares with savings stored under the mattress.

It was the first such scheme in the Russian Federation, largest of the 15 Soviet republics. The Lvov Conveyor Combine in the Ukraine became the first Soviet enterprise to offer its workers a share in the profits in January.

M. Lapshin, director of the "Lenin's Legacy" farm, said the scheme made the farmers owners of the means of production in more than just words.

He said 208 farmers, specialists and managers had bought shares to date and would use their investment to raise veal, buy modern equipment and build a farm clinic.

Lapshin said shares were being sold only to employees of the farm who had an interest in ensuring that their investment produced good returns. He said he

personally had invested 10,000 roubles (\$16,000).

A board of directors will be elected annually to oversee the share scheme and its chairman will sit on the farm's council as a deputy director, Lapshin said. Shareholders will be given monthly information on profits earned.

On other economic aspects, the Soviet economy had trouble meeting the country's needs in the first three months of this year, the government has said.

The overall barometer of the country's economic health, national income, was up four per cent over the first quarter of 1987, but the target level was 6.6 per cent.

Labour productivity also fell short of the goal during a period involving a new phase of Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms.

The Council of Ministers, the government's cabinet, stressed that many of the economy's bottlenecks were hurting the country's 285.2 million people.

"The shortcomings noted in the work of a series of industries and complexes became serious brakes in the buildup of production and increase in people's well-being," the council said, according to the news agency TASS.

The report covered a period in which a new system was introduced in the Soviet economy.

As of Jan. 1, more than 76,000 state-run factories and farms responsible for 60 per cent of the Soviet Union's production were required to depend on themselves for the revenue they need to

operate.

A key element of Gorbachev's reforms is to give local managers more responsibility and flexibility while limiting central authorities to overall planning.

The reforms were not blamed for shortcomings noted in the report, at least, in the media.

Industries and farms operating under the new requirements "are performing better than those working in the old way," Radio Moscow said.

Industrial production increased five per cent over the first quarter of 1987, exceeding the 4.5 per cent target set in state plans, the radio quoted Nikolai Belov, deputy head of the State Committee on Statistics, as saying.

Energy production, transportation equipment, computers and medical equipment all grew.

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FOR A DEATH OF A COP

Performances 3:20, 6:30, 8:30

Cinema **NIJOUN CINEMA** (Formerly Opera) Tel: 675573

RAW DEAL

Performances 3:20, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

CHERRY 2000

Performances 3:20, 5:15, 8:45, 10:45

Handwritten text in Arabic script.

NBA, players reach accord

NEW YORK (R) — The National Basketball Association (NBA) and the Players Association reached an agreement for a six-year labour contract, league commissioner David Stern announced Tuesday.

The deal, which includes an agreement by the players to drop their lawsuit against the league, was hammered out in a seven-hour negotiating session Monday in New York and approved by the NBA board of governors Tuesday, Stern said.

The new contract, which extends through the 1993-94 season, continues the salary cap and the college draft, but both have been drastically modified.

Though the players were seeking to abolish the salary limits and the draft system, the executive board of the Players Association has approved the agreement, according to general counsel Larry Fleisher, who called it "a good deal for both sides."

"This was a compromise," said Stern. "We expect the salary caps to increase by 10 per cent each year and that by 1992 the average salary will be about \$900,000."

This year's selection of college players, which will be held on June 28, has been reduced from seven picks for each team to three. Beginning next year the draft will be only two rounds.

The league and the Players Association also agreed to increases in pension and insurance for the players.

Mitchell retains WBA title

MADRID (R) — Hard-hitting South African Brian Mitchell retained his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-lightweight title with a unanimous points victory over Puerto Rico's Jose Rivera here Wednesday.

Mitchell was making his fifth defence of the crown, the second against Rivera with whom he drew in Puerto Rico a year ago.

As the result was announced, Mitchell beamed to the cheers of a few hundred spectators in the Sala Media Cabaret, where the 12-round fight ended well after midnight.

Rivera, 21, piqued by the draw on his home ground, made a fast start, flooring the 26-year-old South African in the last second of the second round with a powerful right. But Mitchell kept out of his reach, in the third, recovering with nasty punches from both hands.



HARD-FOUGHT VICTORY: Al Faisali beat Al Jazira 1-0 Tuesday night in a hard-fought soccer match played within the Jordan Shield Championship at the Amman Stadium. The winning goal was scored by Zeid Salan in the 2nd half. The photo above shows an attempt of Al Jazira goalkeeper Muta' Al Risha to save a goal from one of the Al Faisali strikers. Al Ali meets Al Duffetel Wednesday night (Photo by Abdullah Ayyoub).

PSV leaps to reach Dutch Cup final

AMSTERDAM (R) — PSV Eindhoven came back from two goals in arrears to beat second division champions RKC 3-2 in the semifinals of the Dutch Cup Tuesday.

PSV, European Cup finalists against Benfica of Portugal next month and already assured of the first division title, found themselves two goals down within the first half hour.

Cees Schapendonk and ad Van de Weil put the second division side in the lead before Dutch international striker Hans Gilhaus pulled one back for PSV just before the interval.

Goals from Dane Soren Lerby and sweeper Ronald Koeman saved PSV blushes as the Dutch champions imposed their class in the second half.

PSV's opponents in the final on May 12 will be Roda JC who beat VVV Venlo 3-1 after extra time.

Roda, currently languishing at 14th in the Dutch first division, qualify for the European Cup-Winners' Cup next season as PSV have already booked their Champions' Cup place.

Calcutta Cup, which was damaged in a kick-about after the match between Scotland and England in February.

"Apparently during the celebrations the cup snapped apart at one of the thinner parts of the neck."

Menotti may join Brazilian national team

Meanwhile, in Buenos Aires, Cesar Luis Menotti, coach of Argentina's triumphant 1978 World Cup team, said Tuesday he would jump at the chance of becoming Brazilian national team manager.

Menotti, who would be the first foreigner to hold the post, which is currently vacant, told the local daily Clarin in an interview: "It's like winning an Oscar I would be coaching one of the five best football (national) in the world."

But despite his apparent enthusiasm, Menotti is likely to turn down any job offer because of a condition which states he must first spend a year as coach of Rio de Janeiro club Fluminense.

Menotti, sacked by Atletico Madrid in March, has until May 2 to reply to Fluminense's offer.

Turning his attention to this June's European Championship seven of the eight finalists had a good chance of winning the exception being Ireland.

Menotti, who also said Denmark and the Netherlands were breathing fresh air into soccer in Europe with their open, attacking style, added that Spain could do well if they decided to be the "bullfighter and not the bull."

Luton relinquishes League Cup

In London, English League Cup winners Luton Town have been forced to hand back the magnificent 19th century silver trophy they won at Wembley just two days ago.

The cup snapped in two during the celebrations following Luton's pulsating 3-2 victory over Arsenal Sunday and has been sent to a silversmiths for repair.

"We are not blaming anyone. It wasn't a case of the players celebrating with a bit of rugby in the street," explained football league spokesman Andy Williamson, alluding to Rugby Union's

Agassi overpowers Brown

ISLE OF PALMS, South Carolina (AP) — Top-seeded Andre Agassi dominated Jimmy Brown, while Diego Perez stunned No. 3-seeded David Pate in first-round play Tuesday in the 78th annual U.S. Men's Clay Court Championships.

Agassi, who's ranked No. 18 in the world, downed Brown 6-1, 6-4, while Perez surprised Pate 6-3, 6-1 in the second day of action at the Wild Dunes Racquet

Club. Pate, ranked 24th in the world, is the third seeded player to lose in the tournament, which is being played here for the first time after 19 years in Indianapolis.

In other action Tuesday No. 7 seed Jimmy Arias advanced to the second round of a tournament for the first time this year, defeating Dan Cassidy 6-2, 6-2, on an overcast day at the seaside resort.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Fichter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1988

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It is likely that there will be some confusion, or even deceptive conditions where matters of a business or financial nature are concerned, so stay alert. Focus your attention on the social side of life tonight.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Since you are not really thinking very clearly at this time, it would not be wise to try to handle a difficult credit matter today.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) If you have the feeling that a new business associate is not to be trusted, you're probably right. Be very careful in motion of any kind.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If you begin a new project at work today, get some assistance before you get in over your head. This evening should be a very romantic one.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Be cautious of a casual acquaintance who is trying to make you look like a fool. Invite some friends into your home tonight.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Check over your records of a financial nature, since it is likely you have made a mistake recently. Stay at home and relax tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You may have some trouble arranging

recreation plans, so forget about them before you waste a whole day. Don't argue with your mate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) If you need a change of scenery this morning, step out for a while and you will come back refreshed. Avoid a boring acquaintance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you receive a message you don't understand, don't spend all day trying to figure it out. Put this aside until you have time to study it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A lack of funds shouldn't keep you from having a good time with your mate tonight. Remember the fun in simple pleasures.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your thinking will not be very clear this morning, so put off making any important decisions until later. Have fun with friends tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 18) Don't worry yourself sick over conditions you can do nothing about. Stay around cheerful friends who will improve your mood tonight.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) Be careful about what you say today, or you could cause a lot of resentment. Try to get your business affairs in better order.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 1988

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You have a high level of energy at this time, and also the intuition to use it wisely, so make it a point to get a lot of work done today. Now would be a good time to get together with old friends.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can get some great ideas, and also any assistance you might need, from friends or family, so don't hesitate to ask for a hand.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Make a smart deal in the business world, and gain the respect of your co-workers. If you go out for some fun, don't be extravagant.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) If you begin any new projects, be sure to follow them through to their completion. Take it easy at home and get plenty of rest tonight.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) A progressive business associate can help you to become more successful in the future. Do something special for your mate.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Talk over your daily routines with someone in a similar line of work, and this person can help you to greatly increase your efficiency.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Use reason rather than force in a confrontation with a co-worker. Make a friend of this person, and all will work out much better.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Make an appointment for some enjoyable recreation with your family. You may come across a way to increase your income today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you have some spare time today, use it to make your home more comfortable and attractive. Pay more attention to your mate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Enjoy a hobby you haven't thought about for some time with a good friend. A short trip tonight could bring you many benefits.

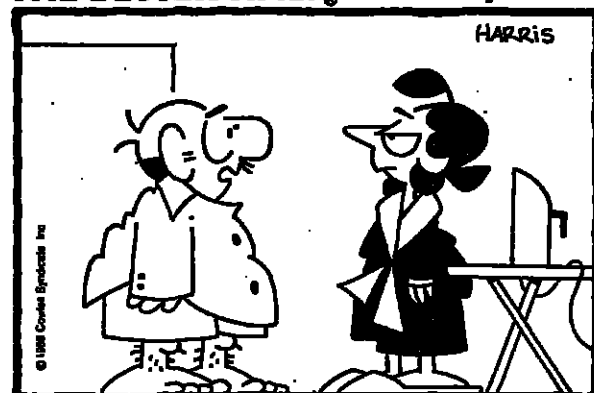
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If you are a bit more careful and organized in your work, you can be much more efficient in the future. Be sure to drive very carefully.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 18) Be a bit more aggressive, but not rude. You can get much better results than usual. Plan out all your routines well in advance.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) Get into a project with your mate which will help you work together more harmoniously. Be very careful about details this evening.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

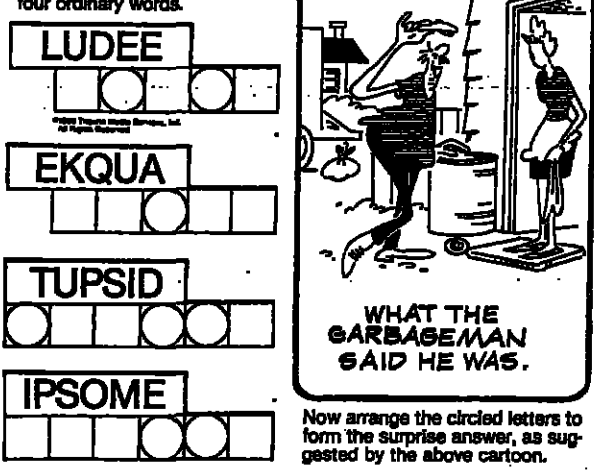


"Big meeting today! Everything's got to be perfect! Did you iron my corn plasters?"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: AT HER (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WOVEN BUMP EFFORT POORLY

Answer: What you are when you have something on the boss — "FIRE PROOF"

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1987 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

BETTER TO BE LUCKY

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 8 4 3
♥ A K 10
♦ A 7 6
♣ Q 5

EAST
♠ Q J 10 6
♥ Q J 9 5
♦ 10 9 2
♣ 7 2

SOUTH
♠ 7
♥ 8 6 4 3 2
♦ K J 5
♣ A J 9 3

The bidding:
South West North East
Pass Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♦ Pass 3 ♦ Pass
4 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ Pass
6 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

It all depends on the eye of the beholder. Some players are by nature optimists, and they view their hands accordingly. If they seem to be lucky in the bargain, they probably have to be.

We know the meaning of the first few bids in the auction on this hand played at the Hooches tournament in The Hague. South's bid of three diamonds was a transfer to hearts, and North's spade response showed a super-maximum two no trump

opening with a fit. Now we are not sure of the exact range of North's opening bid, but with only three-card support and an insufficiently guarded queen whose value could not be determined, we would be inclined to treat it as a minimum. From this point on we are not sure what the bids meant, but we don't blame South for being bullish opposite expected four-card support.

West led the top of his spade sequence, and South could not have been enthralled with his prospects. He won in dummy and ruffed a spade, then led a low heart to the king. The queen of clubs was covered by the king and taken with the ace, and when a low trump was led, West, who thought he was looking at two sure trump tricks, split his honors. Declarer won on the table and learned the bad news.

Undismayed, declarer led a low club from the table and confidently finessed the nine. On the jack of clubs dummy and West both sluffed a diamond. After cashing the king-ace of diamonds and king of spades for a diamond discard, he ruffed another spade in hand. When he played the last club, he could not be stopped from scoring the board's ten of trumps en passant for the fulfilling trick.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Etkin

STORIED CREATURES

By William Caudle

- ACROSS
1 Canine dog
2 Male incision
3 Certain types
4 Fishhook hole
5 Large fish
6 Spines
7 In any way
8 Mouth
9 Limited time
10 Crested person
11 Upstairs novel
12 London novel
13 Certain address
14 Chemical ending
15 Aunt Sp.
16 Cover for a coat
17 Many words
18 Bonnie or Clyde
19 Drive
20 Mystery
21 George — (1730-1860)

- DOWN
1 Portray's creator
2 Acting award
3 Adams greedily
4 Williams play
5 Fat. prof.
6 Spins
7 Enthusiastic exclamation
8 Give new form to
9 Type style
10 Baby day need
11 Priest's garment
12 Alarms
13 Very foolish
14 Baltic region
15 Chin. dynasty
16 Time zone letters

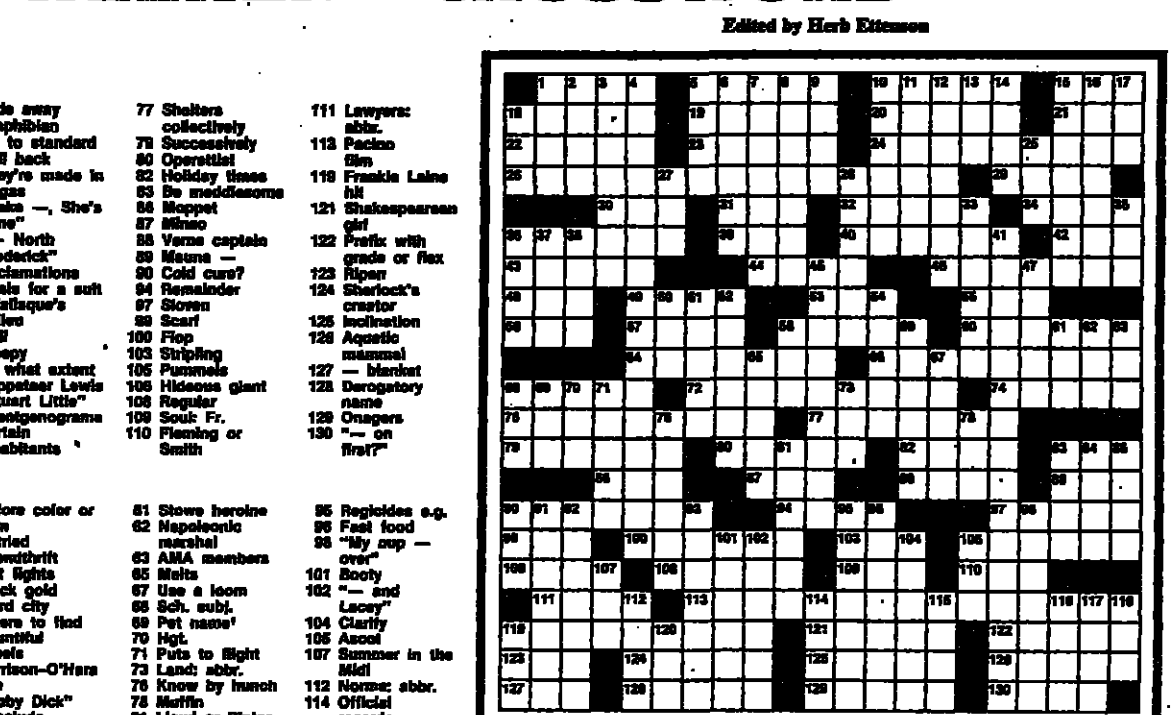
- 17 Small guitar
18 Waitress
19 Premiering
20 Unusually
21 Arthur — Doyle
22 Color
23 Certain
24 Musical group
25 Window
26 Secularism
27 Study hard

- 28 Before color or core
29 Unsettled
30 Spendthrift
31 Flat rights
32 Black gold
33 Flood city
34 Where to find
35 Labels
36 Hamilton-O'Hare
37 "Moby Dick"
38 Conclude
39 Sam's mother
40 Kabuki for example
41 Secular
42 On-line account
43 Vers. Ada
44 Council reformer
45 Labeled

- 46 Napoleon
47 Refers
48 Wild cat
49 Hawaiian goose
50 Correction
51 Trade
52 Express great
53 praise
54 Sealable
55 Hall

- 56 Descended
57 Office girls
58 Exchange
59 premium
60 language
61 Before
62 Dubbed
63 Strip
64 Strangely or slowly
65 Equality

- 66 Enthusiastic
67 Dorothea or Gen
68 Sloping
69 passageway
70 "It's a sin to tell a lie"
71 Miami —
72 Cupid
73 Turk
74 Title



Last Week's Cryptograms
1. When it has been dry, and rain is forecast for tomorrow, one can only hope the weatherman's radar blips are correct.
2. Old lawyers' saying that's as valid now as ever: "Where there's a will, there's a way."
3. These chic dogs, artificial flagstones look like eagles' talons.
4. What TV calls "silence" have more utilization than real wit.

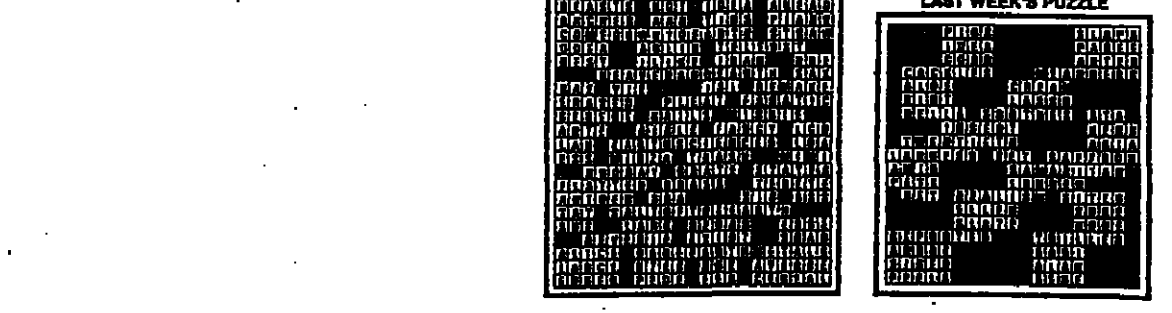
CRYPTOGRAMS
1. OYGF YVM WIMCRIO IXLEMCRT EYR
WNOOFH I MOFVAY CYERNAY CYF MXRE.
CYF LIXXQ ROH BVGOBIXM YRTMF IOMR
GXFE CYF EIQ.

—By Gordon Miller
2. CID OI BRAZEN NOMILD ONLSJMN
VYSNLDJONY ZERCDEG. "AVUN DEJO GIRL
ANND AVLUND."

—By Lois H. Jones
3. PYXI WDD HOGGOIS XIGL, ANTIQUE
WTAQONIKXU PDD ADNLX LWDX HE
AYWIBOIS, "SNOIS, SNOIS, SNIX."

—By Ed Haddleton
4. BQJJA YFTTAL LANJAK MIKAL WFWFIMJ
JLAA QI KAHJA YMTBA.

—By Earl Ireland
SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Jo D. in 1988

Dukakis crushes Jackson; Bush clinches Republican nomination

PHILADELPHIA (R) — Michael Dukakis, looking more and more like the inevitable Democratic presidential nominee, crushed Jesse Jackson by better than two-to-one in Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary.

In the Republican race, Vice-President George Bush won about 80 per cent of the vote and mathematically clinched a Republican nomination that has clearly been in his pocket for some time.

Bush now has 1,164 nominating delegates, according to an estimate by the NBC Television Network. He needs 1,139 to be nominated at his party's August convention in New Orleans.

With 73 per cent of the Pennsylvania votes counted, Massachusetts Governor Dukakis led the Reverend Jackson, the first black to make a major bid for the presidency, by 66 to 30 per cent and won by large margins among all groups except blacks.

'Out-everythinged'

"We were out-organized, out-spent, and out-everythinged in Pennsylvania," Jackson National Campaign Manager Gerald Austin told reporters at a rally in Toledo, Ohio.

The contest split along racial lines with Jackson winning more than 95 per cent of the black vote but just 15 per cent of white votes, according to television network polls of voters after they cast their ballots.

That combination gave Jackson

primary victories against multi-candidate fields in several states with large black populations, but leaves him well short in two-person contests.

Dukakis also stretched his lead in the race for national nominating delegates by winning more than 150 of the 178 delegates at stake here.

Dukakis has now chalked up consecutive primary victories in Connecticut, Wisconsin, New York and Pennsylvania to halt a brief Jackson surge that began after the Baptist minister's landslide win in the March 26 Michigan caucuses.

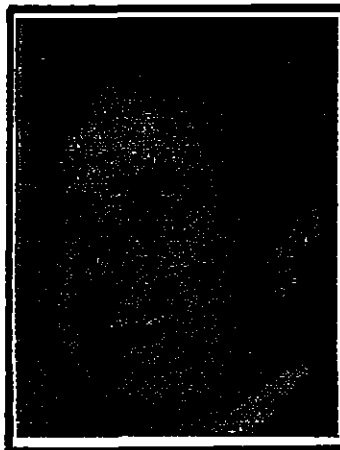
Prior to Tuesday's voting, NBC gave Dukakis a 1,098-857 lead over Jackson in the race for the 2,082 delegates needed to win the nomination at the party's July convention.

Other estimates showed a similar Dukakis lead and political experts say he will be almost impossible to stop.

But Dukakis, 54, refused to lay claim to the nomination. He told a Boston news conference that his victory was a "very big boost," but responded with a curt "No, I don't" when asked if he now had the nomination wrapped up.



Michael Dukakis



George Bush

"Fritz Mondale won in New York and Pennsylvania in 1984 and then lost a whole string of primaries," Dukakis said in reference to former vice-president Walter Mondale who lost several late primaries before securing the party nomination.

Jackson, in Ohio, said he would remain in the contest through the final primary in California on June 7 with its prize of 314 delegates, the largest bloc at the convention.

"This race is going all the way to California and our campaign

continues to grow," Jackson, 46, said in Toledo.

Bush claimed victory even before the day's voting ended and said he could now prepare for a general election race against Dukakis that polls say should be close.

At a campaign stop in Indiana, he said Pennsylvania was "a major milestone for me and shifting of gears in one sense, and that is I would have a little more time to spend getting ready one-on-one with whoever the Democratic nominee is."

Kohl names new defence minister

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl officially announced Tuesday the appointment of a little-known conservative West Berlin senator, Rupert Scholz, to the often precarious post of West German defence minister.

Scholz, 50, takes over May 18 from Manfred Woerner, who will succeed Britain's Lord Carrington as NATO secretary-general on July 1.

Presenting former law professor Scholz at a news conference, Kohl said: "He has dealt with German policy, foreign relations and security matters in his work in Berlin."

Western diplomats reacted favourably to Scholz as successor to Woerner — a hardliner frequently at odds with the detente policies of liberal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

But they said taking the job was political suicide so close to the 1990 general election and amid government bickering over defence spending and frequent discord with Washington over disarmament.

"No politician with political ambitions for the future would want this job now with all the problems it entails," said one diplomat. "It is tantamount to political suicide."

Scholz, who appeared with Kohl, refused to comment on his own future defence policy.

The opposition Social Democrats (SPD) said Kohl's decision to pick an outsider for the "biggest and most difficult ministry in Bonn" would raise criticism in the parliamentary group of his Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

Scholz said his World War II childhood in Berlin and his father's death in the Nazi siege of Stalingrad had formed his views on the need to balance disarmament with a strong defence.

By Roger Crabbe
Reuter

SEOUL — The government's shock general election failure opens a new era in South Korean politics, with President Roh Tae-Woo's party — which long dictated assembly business — now needing opposition support to rule.

Roh's Democratic Justice Party (DJP) will still be the largest single group in the national assembly following Tuesday's vote but near complete results showed it would fall well short of an overall majority.

Investors reacted with shock to the prospect of a government deprived for the first time of its parliamentary powerbase. Seoul share prices fell by nearly four per cent, their biggest daily decline.

With South Korea in the glare of world publicity as it prepares to host the Olympic Games in September, diplomats said the need for compromise and cooperation across party lines could be a big test for the fledgling democracy.

"It remains to be seen whether these politicians, used to rough, often violent confrontation in the chamber and in the streets, are now ready to trade chaos for 'cohabitation' on the French model," said one experienced observer.

Like French President Francois Mitterrand, who in 1986 lost his parliamentary majority and called in rival party leader Jacques Chirac to be prime minister, Roh will have to show some fancy footwork and swallow a lot of pride.

South Korean commentators hailed two victors after Tuesday's vote: dissident Kim Dae-Jung, whose Party for Peace and

10 charged with murder in New Caledonia

NOUMEA (R) — Ten people were charged with murder, rebellion and kidnap in a Noumea court Wednesday as the search continued for 16 French gendarmes held hostage by separatists on a coral atoll in New Caledonia.

Four other people facing similar charges after the killing of four gendarmes on the island of Ouvéa, 320 kilometres north of Noumea, were in hospital, police said.

No plea was taken and the 10 were remanded in custody until their trial on a date yet to be fixed. There is no death penalty in France or its South Pacific territories.

Police did not say when or where the ten were arrested, nor how the four were injured. Violence erupted in Ouvéa two days before Sunday's regional elections when a group of indigenous Kanak separatists attacked a gendarme outpost and hacked to death three policemen.

Another gendarme died in hospital later.

The separatists kidnapped 27 gendarmes but later released 11. Three hundred highly trained paramilitary members of French security forces have been combing the rugged terrain, dense

vegetation and the limestone caves that riddle the coral atoll. Local radio Wednesday said the separatist group holding the hostages had been trapped in an area of about 20 square km.

French Minister for Overseas Territories Bernard Pons, who flew to New Caledonia last weekend, expressed confidence that the hostages would be freed soon.

Leaders of the Melanesian Kanaks said the lives of the hostages were not in danger. "We are not killers, we will not kill them," said Edmond Nekirai, president of the political bureau of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS).

The FLNKS boycotted the elections and instead has demanded that France allow self-determination for Kanaks, who make up 43 per cent of the 140,000 population.

French settlers and other loyalists, who outnumber the Kanaks, voted overwhelmingly in a referendum last September to remain under French rule.

A French High Commission statement Wednesday said the situation was calm in the island group after sporadic gun battles between whites and Kanaks Tuesday.

U.S., Soviets sign nuclear safety accord

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States and the Soviet Union signed an agreement Tuesday to cooperate in regulating the safety of civilian nuclear reactors.

The accord was signed at the State Department on the second anniversary of the accident at the Soviet's Chernobyl plant. Thirty-one deaths have been attributed to the disaster near Kiev.

The United States has its own nuclear accident at Three Mile Island, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1979. There were no fatalities but questions were raised about the safety of nuclear plants.

The agreement provides for the exchange of technical information about the design and construction of nuclear reactors and safety research. It will be in force for five years and can be extended for five-year periods.

Lando W. Zech Jr., chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, signed for the United States. Alexander N. Protsenko, chairman of the Soviet State Committee for the Utilisation of Atomic Energy, signed for his government.

A joint committee will convene once a year to review proposals to enhance the safety of nuclear reactors.

Jagger gets satisfaction

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (R) — Rock and roll legend Mick Jagger did not steal another musician's song for his hit "Just Another Night," a jury ruled Tuesday.

"I'm going to take my lawyers out for a beer now," a beaming Jagger said after the four-man, two-woman jury decided the British singer was innocent of plagiarising a song by Jamaican-born reggae song-writer Patrick Alley.

"This whole thing was pointless. If you are well known, people will take shots at you. I don't think our songs are similar at all," Jagger said. Alley, 38, lowered his head and frowned when the verdict was read. Jagger broke into a broad grin and shook his lawyer's hand. "I still believe that that's my song. I know that that's my song," he said. Alley would say to reporters. He had sought seven million dollars in profits he claimed Jagger made from the song. As Jagger left the courthouse and got into a limousine, he and his two bodyguards were mobbed by about 100 fans. "I'm very relieved. My reputation is completely clear," he said.

Children find proverbial pot of gold

BENNEKOM, Netherlands (AP) — Eight children unearthed two proverbial pots of gold while digging new foundations for a clubhouse, police said Monday. The children found two glass jars filled with gold coins and jewelry worth about 400,000 guilders (\$214,000), said police spokesman Theo Reus. The buried treasure included modern gold coins issued by South Africa, Canada and Austria, as well as gold bracelets, necklaces and rings. The jars were buried 40 centimetres deep on a deserted plot of land. "We're investigating whether it (the treasure) is the proceeds of a crime or whether it was buried legally," Reus told the Associated Press. Police were withholding the names of the treasure finders. The children, aged 9-11, found the jars last Thursday while digging a hole to reinforce their clubhouse's foundations, the official said. He said one of the children's parents immediately notified police of the find in this central Dutch town.

Nowhere is safe

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